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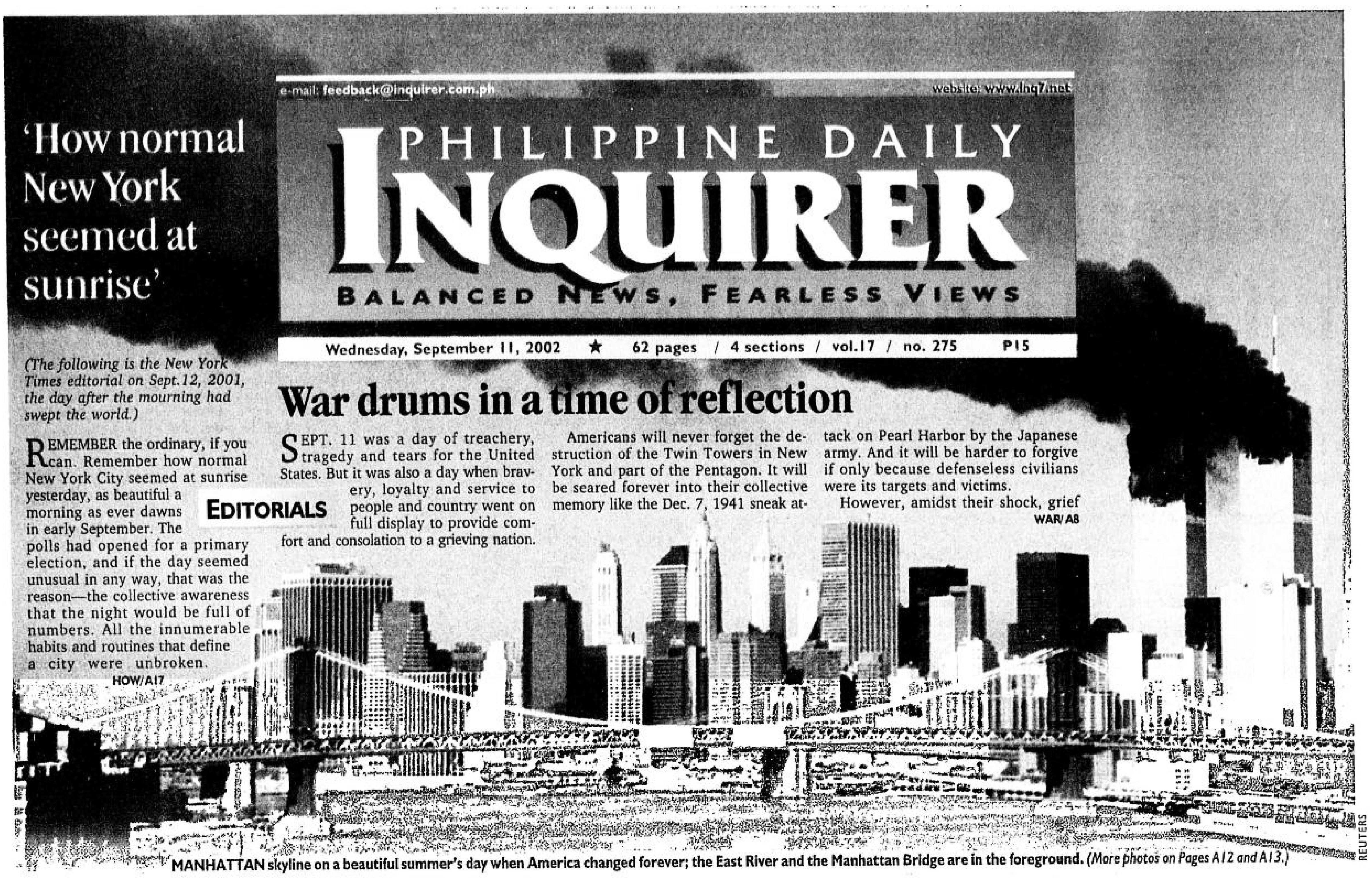
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 11, 2002 ★ 62 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 275 P15



MANHATTAN skyline on a beautiful summer's day when America changed forever; the East River and the Manhattan Bridge are in the foreground. *(More photos on Pages A12 and A13.)*

REUTERS

'How normal New York seemed at sunrise'

(The following is the New York Times editorial on Sept.12, 2001, the day after the mourning had swept the world.)

REMEMBER the ordinary, if you can. Remember how normal New York City seemed at sunrise yesterday, as beautiful a morning as ever dawns in early September. The polls had opened for a primary election, and if the day seemed unusual in any way, that was the reason—the collective awareness that the night would be full of numbers. All the innumerable habits and routines that define a city were unbroken.

HOW/A17

EDITORIALS

War drums in a time of reflection

SEPT. 11 was a day of treachery, tragedy and tears for the United States. But it was also a day when bravery, loyalty and service to people and country went on full display to provide comfort and consolation to a grieving nation.

Americans will never forget the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York and part of the Pentagon. It will be seared forever into their collective memory like the Dec. 7, 1941 sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese army. And it will be harder to forgive if only because defenseless civilians were its targets and victims.

However, amidst their shock, grief

WAR/A8

US takes threat seriously

Reyes, Golez dismiss CNN story as recycled intelligence report

By Norman Bordadora, Martin P. Marfil and TJ Burgonio

THE US EMBASSY in Manila is taking al-Qaida's threat to bomb its office and the Israeli Embassy seriously even as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez dismissed the threat reported by CNN as nothing new.

The government nevertheless tightened security at key foreign embassies and facilities. On President Macapagal-Arroyo's orders, "we have secured all vital installations and establishments, including the US, Israeli and UK embassies," Golez said.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said yesterday the embassy would be exercising the same vigilance it had adopted after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington one year ago today.

"We take all threats seriously," Kelley said. But she said, "We would be open (today). It would be business as usual."

Today, the embassy is sponsoring a memorial concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Like the US Embassy, the Israeli Embassy in Makati City will be open today.

"We have generally been on high alert so there is nothing to improve on (with regard to se-

US/A16

Baguio artists make 500 masks to describe post-Sept. 11 emotions

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Masks cast in papier maché and on display in Malcolm Square here have given the post-Sept. 11 world a new face. Or, to be more precise, almost 500 faces.

The masks, made by a local theater group, describe the myriad emotions of ordinary people who live in a world made paranoid by the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

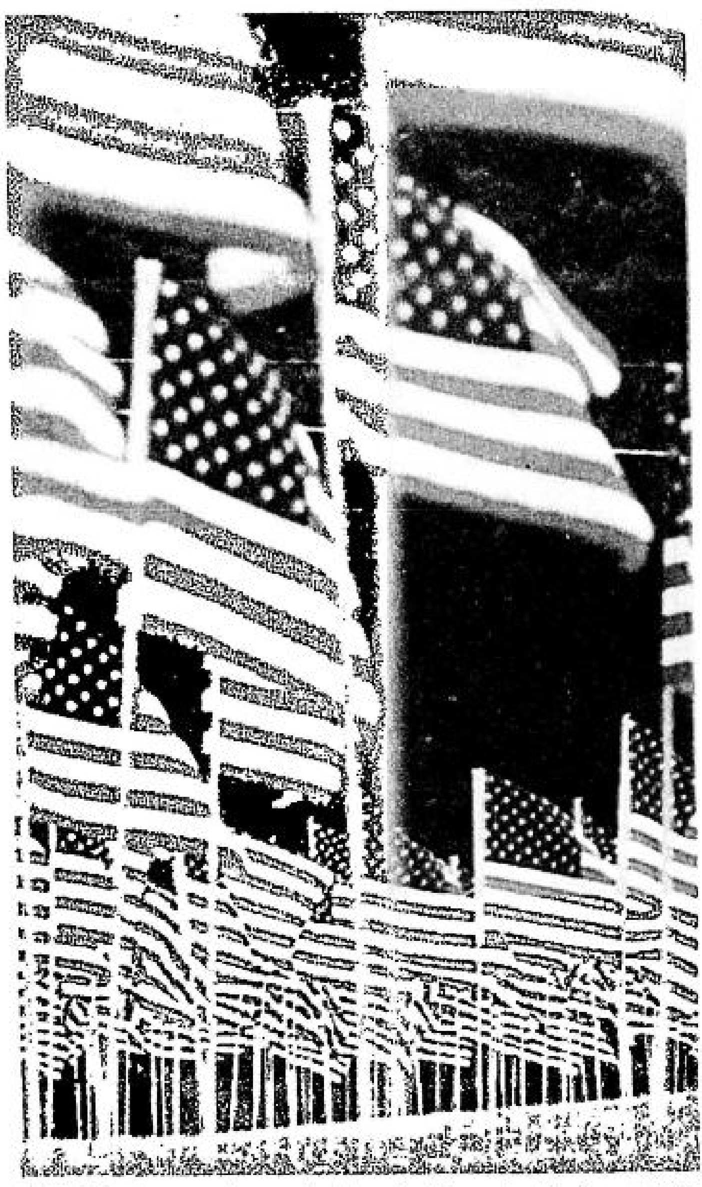
On Saturday, at the exhibit called "*Ta Rupam*" (Ilocano for "Your Face"), giggling children tried on various masks: that of a woman screaming in agony, that of one bearing a grim, wrinkled snarl, that of a growling ogre, its red tongue springing from thin red lips.

The masks' creator, Edgardo Espiritu, smiled from the sidelines.

"*Masaya sila dahil hindi pa nila nakikita iyong kagimbal-gimbal na mundo natin* (They're innocents laughing at our world because they have not yet seen the real horrors in our world)," he said.

The exhibit paid homage to

BAGUIO/A6



GETTY IMAGES

9/11/2002: A wave of remembering, of pride and patriotism engulfs the US, this one in Mason, Ohio, where 3,486 flags are planted in a church courtyard to memorialize those who lost their lives.

Filipino child has new life, thanks to NY cops, firemen

By Donna S.Cueto

THE HEROISM of New York policemen and firemen has changed the life of a Filipino child.

As thousands perished in the World Trade Center bombing, a Filipino baby with a serious heart ailment was being given a new life, thanks to the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the New York Fire Department (NYFD), the very same heroes of 9/11.

Baby "Nyah" Nehemiah Tagayuna from Maribojoc, Bohol, then 9 months old was taken in by the NYPD and the NYFD as their miracle baby, their symbol of love and hope. Weeks before 9/11, they had participated in the Gift of Life 1,000 Mile Walk-Run to finance her life-saving operation.

She was scheduled for operation by Gift of Life Inc., of New York and Rotary District 7250 on Sept. 11, 2001.

Later, policemen and firemen who had helped saved Nyah said, "Bin Laden has many friends in the Philippines, but we saved a little girl from the Philippines," Philippine Gift of Life president Francisca S. Baluyot recalled them saying.

FILIPINO/A17

MARAMI AKONG GA-GAWIN

Defensor: 10 tasks, 69 days

By Martin P. Marfil and Carlito Pablo

SO MANY things to do but so little time.

Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. is facing this challenge as Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff with a term of only 69 days.

At the turnover ceremony yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo, Defensor outlined his "to do" list that included projecting 10 "images" of the Filipino soldier.

DEFENSOR/A6

Terror tremors ripple across Asia; US on alert

TERROR tremors rippled across Asia a day before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, prompting the closure of the American embassies in Indonesia and Malaysia, a security lockdown in the Philippines and a white-powder scare in New Zealand.

The worst jitters were felt in Southeast Asia, a region that has become known as the second front in the war on terror.

Dozens of Islamic hardliners allegedly linked to the al-Qaida terror network have been arrested last year in Singapore and Malaysia, while authorities in the Philippines have escalated a fight against Abu Sayyaf bandits linked to Osama bin Laden.

The US government issued a worldwide caution urging Americans to remain especially vigilant, saying there was a "continuing threat of terrorist actions, which may target civilians and include suicide operations."

Prayers, vigils and memorial services have been planned in various countries for the hundreds of Indians, Bangladeshis, Japanese, Australians and other nationalities who died at New York's World Trade Center after hijacked airliners slammed into its Twin Towers.

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation and home to several hardline Islamic groups, the US Embassy announced Tuesday that it was closed until further notice because of a "credible and specific" terrorist threat.

"We know that the al-Qaida network is still far from defeated," US Ambassador Ralph Boyce said. "We received another graphic example of that in just the past few hours with the news about . . . the specific terrorist threat against our embassy."

The ambassador implied that the

TERROR/A16

GMA sets 'new rules of engagement' for AFP

By Carlito Pablo

"CREATIVELY organized enemies" in the post-Sept. 11 world require the Armed Forces of the Philippines to follow "new rules of engagement," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"Criminal and terrorist organizations—local and international—must be regarded in peacetime as combatants as in wartime," the Commander-in-Chief said at the turnover of command in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. "The goal is to degrade them, to neutralize them until the survivors quit."

The installation of new AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor came on the eve of the first anniversary of the terror attacks in New York and Washington.

"The roles and missions of the military are changing," Ms Macapagal said at the rites. Countries now have to contend with the "growth in the power of the criminal, terrorist and other armed non-state organizations that now challenge traditional nation-states in many parts of the globe," she added.

Under the Macapagal administration, the Philippines has been one of the staunchest allies of the United States in its war on terror.

"Far from the conventionally armed and recognizably structured forces our analysts imagined as future opponents, we confront today creatively organized enemies employing behaviors and technologies ranging from the Stone Age to those at the imagination's edge," she said.

In Singapore, the island-nation's Minister of state for defense said the "threat of catastrophic terrorism is a very real one" and urged a meeting of Southeast Asian military chiefs to embrace transnational cooperation.

President Macapagal said that the 20th-century US model in which the military looks outwards while law enforcement agencies address internal

GMA/A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/11/02

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	**Roxas**	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Palace: Letters disprove Mike A-Liongson link

By Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno

MALACAÑANG yesterday made public three letters in a bid to disprove persistent suggestions that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo is allegedly involved in financial irregularities surrounding the Terminal 3 international airport project.

The letters, all dated last July, were from Arroyo; Alfonso Liongson, the mysterious consultant of the contracting firm Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) who is being linked to Arroyo; and Piatco chair and president Cheng Yong.

At the Senate, where the blue ribbon committee is conducting hearings into the controversial Piatco contract, Senate President Franklin Drilon said that "at this point, there is no proof that Mr. Arroyo had anything to do with it (Piatco)."

No evidence

"I have not seen any evidence to link him so far. So I do not see the point in his being called (to the hearings)," he said.

And unless any evidence was produced to show a link between Liongson and Arroyo, Drilon said the committee would just be "engaging in a fishing expedition if he is called at this point."

Drilon disclosed that Liongson, who was being sought by the blue ribbon committee to shed light on his suspiciously large public relations contract with Piatco, was able to escape being called to the Senate probe by leaving the country two weeks before the investigation started.

Drilon said he has been furnished a report by Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo saying that Liongson left for Hong Kong on Aug. 23 via Cathay Pacific and has not returned since.

Don't know him

In a letter dated July 25, the First Gentleman told Cheng that he has "not even met this Liongson" and has "never authorized anybody to transact business or make transactions, deals or anything with your office."

The next day, July 26, Liongson wrote Cheng and told him that he also did not know Arroyo.

"I have never met him (Arroyo) and I do not even recall having had the opportunity to see him in person," Liongson said.

Liongson told Cheng that he "obviously (is) in no position to ever use the name of the First Gentleman for my own benefit, and I never did."

The next day, July 27, Cheng replied to Arroyo's letter of July 25 and told him that "no one has ever approached Piatco for any transaction, contract or deal using your name or any relation with you or any member of the First Family."

"In particular, we confirm to you that our consultant, Mr. Alfonso S. Liongson, never claimed to us that he had any influence over any member of the First Family, or any government official for that matter," Cheng said.

Cheng also told Arroyo: "We apologize that even you have been inconvenienced."

Liongson was reportedly paid about P100 million in the last half of 2001 for undertaking media relations and crisis management services for Piatco.

But it is widely suspected that Liongson was being used as a dummy by still unnamed influential parties for the collection of illegal bribes from Piatco.

The blue ribbon committee summoned Liongson on Sept. 3 to shed light on the $2.1 million in fees that he received from Piatco which the senators found "exorbitant."

His consultancy contract with Piatco stated that Liongson was to be paid a total of $4.4 million at the completion of Terminal 3.

According to Piatco chair and president Cheng Yong, Liongson stopped reporting to him last January.

Dummy for Mike?

Former senator Juan Ponce Enrile suggested last Saturday that Liongson was possibly acting as a dummy for Arroyo and President Macapagal-Arroyo's publicist Dante Ang.

"If Enrile has evidence, then he should come forward and present his evidence before the committee," Drilon said.

Drilon also noted that no criminal charges have been filed against Liongson to compel him to return to the country.

"There is no basis for legal action at this point (against Lionsgon)," he said.

The Senate hearings resume at 1 p.m. today.

Piatco warns gov't of Nov. 26 deadline

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONTROVERSIAL contractor of the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has warned the government it has to comply with the Nov. 26 opening date of the terminal, or pay $50,000 in fines for each day of delay.

In a statement, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) warned that its build-operate-transfer contract with the government stipulated that the new terminal should start operating as soon as it is finished and ready to do so.

"We do not want this to happen because we believe that the government should not be made to incur unnecessary expenses, especially at this time when it is already suffering from a huge financial deficit. We are ready to perform our obligations. There is no need for government to cause a delay," Piatco vice president and spokesperson Moises Tolentino said.

Gloria Tan-Climaco, presidential adviser on strategic projects whose review of and recommendations about what to do with the project has placed her on a collision course with Piatco, predicted last week that the terminal would not open on Nov. 26.

Climaco said it would take six to nine months to "outfit all spaces" required by international airlines, as well as the government's immigration and aviation security agencies.

The Board of Airline Representatives (BAR), an organization of international airlines flying the Philippine route, informed Piatco in late July that its members needed six months to get approvals from their head offices to transfer to the new terminal and to design, construct and bid out the job of laying out their offices.

Tolentino dismissed the request of the 35 local and international flag carriers for a six-month lead time before transferring to the new terminal as a "petty excuse."

He claimed that Piatco had already complied with all of the requirements that the airlines presented in January. He added that all of the airlines' requests, including tenant guidelines relating to costs and airport charges had already been given.

"It's all systems go when the Naia 3 opens for operations. There is no need to delay the operations as stipulated in the contract between Piatco and government. Piatco is fully complying with all its obligations and will be ready to start operations in November as provided for in the contract," he said.

An industry source said Piatco was following a "milestone chart" or a set timetable for the terminal's operations.

Perez inhibits self as head of Piatco review committee

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez voluntarily stepped down yesterday as chair and member of the seven-man Cabinet committee created last week by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the contract to build the $609-million Naia Terminal 3.

Perez inhibited himself from participating in the review and renegotiation of the contract awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) out of delicadeza.

He told reporters at a press conference that he had to "relieve and excuse" himself because his former partners at the Balgos and Perez law offices were serving as counsel for the Mia Association of Service Operators (Maso), which has been opposing the Piatco contract.

"Propriety dictates that I inhibit myself as head and member of the Cabinet committee for the reason that Atty. Marcial O.T. Balgos, one of the partners in my former law office, has filed several cases against the officials of Piatco," he said.

He said he was stepping down so as not to cast any doubt on the independence and impartiality of the committee conducting the review.

Another committee member, National Economic Development Authority Director General Dante Canlas, will replace Perez as committee chair.

Perez also disclosed that Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee would also cease to be the committee spokesperson.

Teehankee, who was designated spokesperson by Perez, is a former member of the Romulo, Mabanta law firm, which is the legal counsel for Piatco.

"He came from a law firm that (lawyered) for Piatco. But I came from a law firm that sued Piatco," quipped Perez.

Perez made the decision after meeting with Ms Macapagal in Malacañang on Monday.

"Actually, that does not affect my objectivity but I just don't want it to be said that I continued to act after acquiring knowledge that the law office where I came from was one of those which filed charges against the Piatco officials," said Perez.

Maso and former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. filed graft charges at the Ombudsman's office against Piatco and the former transportation secretary, Pantaleon Alvarez, for the allegedly lopsided Terminal 3 contract.

The complaint was dropped after Maso's witnesses retracted their statements.

Perez said he had requested the President to assign chief counsel Elmer Bautista and assistant chief state prosecutor Rose Vicente either as members of the committee or resource persons.

Perez earlier disclosed that other committee members—Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas—had already expressed support for the renegotiation.

DOLE boss threatens charges vs critics

By Blanche Rivera

FED up with groups seeking her ouster, an indignant Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has threatened to file charges against them if they hold their protest activities during office hours.

Sto. Tomas issued the warning after militant labor groups led by the Department of Labor and Employment Employees Union (DOLE-EU) renewed the drive for her removal.

The DOLE union and the militant Migrante International blamed Sto. Tomas for the government's "failure to protect overseas Filipino workers" in various countries.

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24-27 September 2002
Malcolm Theater, U.P. College of Law
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, 24 September 2002
Topic : DOUBLE JEOPARDY
Lecturer : JUSTICE RICARDO P. GALVEZ, Former Solicitor General
Reactor : Hon. RODOLFO G. PALATTAO, Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2002
Topic : CRIMES RELATED TO COMMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS (Plunder, BP 22, Anti-Money Laundering)
Lecturer : Prof. ARTURO E. BALBASTRO, University of the Philippines, College of Law
Reactor : Judge SIXTO C. MARELLA, JR., Regional Trial Court, Makati
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Thursday, 26 September 2002
Topic : COMPUTATION AND GRADUATION OF PENALTIES
Lecturer : Hon. DIOSDADO M. PERALTA, Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan
Reactor : Judge LUCAS P. BERSAMIN, Regional Trial Court, Quezon City
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday, 27 September 2002
Topic : UPDATES ON CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE
Lecturer : Judge LUCAS P. BERSAMIN, Regional Trial Court, Quezon City
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Pure blackmail, DAR chief says of graft raps

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

"PURE blackmail" was how Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza yesterday described a complaint filed against him by department employees for alleged overspending on the 14th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program on July 10.

But Braganza welcomed a probe by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, saying it would give him a chance to clear his name and the DAR management.

Leaders of the Department of Agrarian Reform Empoyees Association (Darea) reported that a staggering P50 million was spent on the week-long celebration.

"The money could have been put to better use, maybe in the implementation of CARP," the union officials said in the complaint filed Aug. 26.

Willing to resign

"I am willing to resign from my post should (the allegation) be proven," the DAR chief stressed. On the other hand, he said, his accusers should quit their jobs if they fail to substantiate their "malicious disinformation campaign."

The commission found sufficient basis for an administrative investigation, and PAGC chair Dario Rama has ordered Braganza to submit a counter-affidavit on or before Sept. 15. A preliminary conference was set for Sept. 18.

Braganza promised to turn over all documents that the PAGC would require of him.

"I am sure that the complainants, who are all from Manila, do not speak for the 13,000 DAR employees nationwide," Braganza said.

The secretary said his accusers had become confrontational toward management after it turned down their request for a P1.6 million cash advance for union-sponsored acitivites during the CARP anniversary celebration.

Management offered to pay P1 million in cash, and the difference through a regular voucher process, Braganza said. The union rejected the proposal and three days later, on June 7, its leaders launched protest actions.

Darea president Violeta Bonilla had also been critical of him, the DAR chief said, since he disapproved the recommended promotions of several union-favored personnel.

Personal recommendees

Braganza said Bonilla's "personal recommendees" was a regional director found to have padded the accomplishment report in land distribution for year 2001. He placed the recommendee on a "floating status," Braganza said. He added that he later turned down Bonilla's appeal for reconsideration for the regional director.

In its eight-page complaint, the union said Braganza "stubbornly" refused to present a financial report on the week-long CARP anniversary celebrations.

BRAGANZA

According to Darea's own report, the anniversary expenses included: P3.7 million for provincial consultations; P7 million, for trade fairs at SM Megamall and Robinson's; P20 million for television and radio advertisements; P3 million for consultancy fees; and P5.9 million for a parade and the billeting of 2,000 guests for the Independence Day Celebration on June 12.

Bunye clams up on sale of print office

By D. Pazzibugan

WHO'S afraid of President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Don't ask Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye suddenly clammed up yesterday after speaking his mind over the abolition next year of the 102-year-old National Printing Office.

Bunye had opposed the abolition, saying the NPO performs the "very vital function" of printing ballots and election forms.

He told dzMM on Monday he would personally try to convince to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to withdraw the plan to sell and privatize the printing office.

But at yesterday's news briefing, Bunye surprisingly declined to comment further.

Asked why, he sheepishly admitted: "I don't intend to argue with my boss in public."

"I will just take action as I deem fit and that's it," he added.

The NPO is one of the 14 government agencies to be abolished next year.

The agency's union claimed Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal's longtime publicist, moved for the NPO's abolition so he could substitute a semi-private printing firm called the APO Printing Unit that he once worked for.

The union said with the NPO gone, all future elections would be in question since ballots would be printed by private firms like APO.

Ang denied having a hand in the move.

The NPO is under the Office of the Press Secretary.

Bunye, who assumed office on July 16, was apparently kept in the dark about its abolition.

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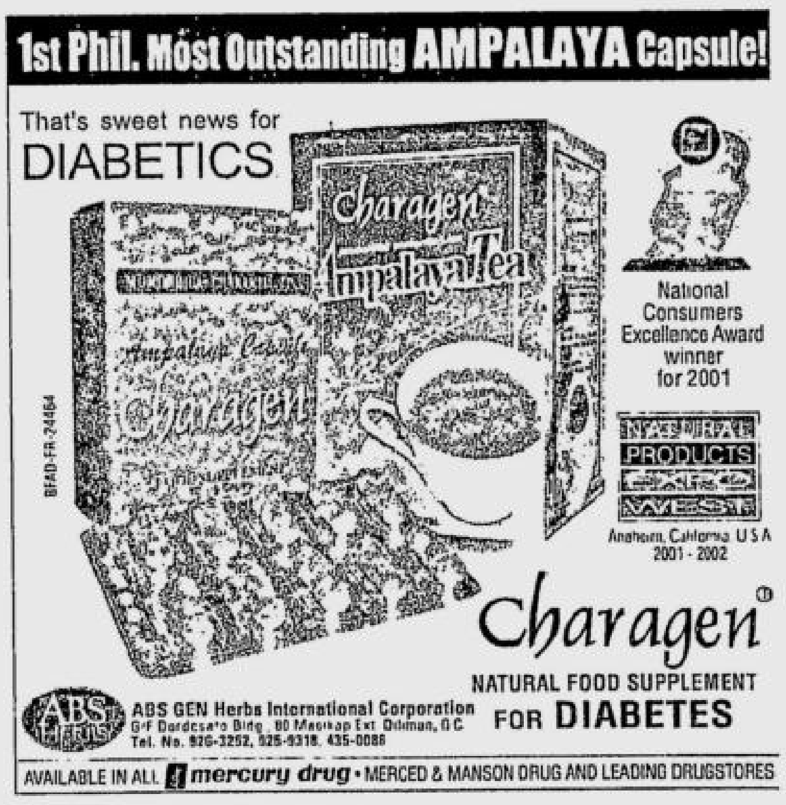
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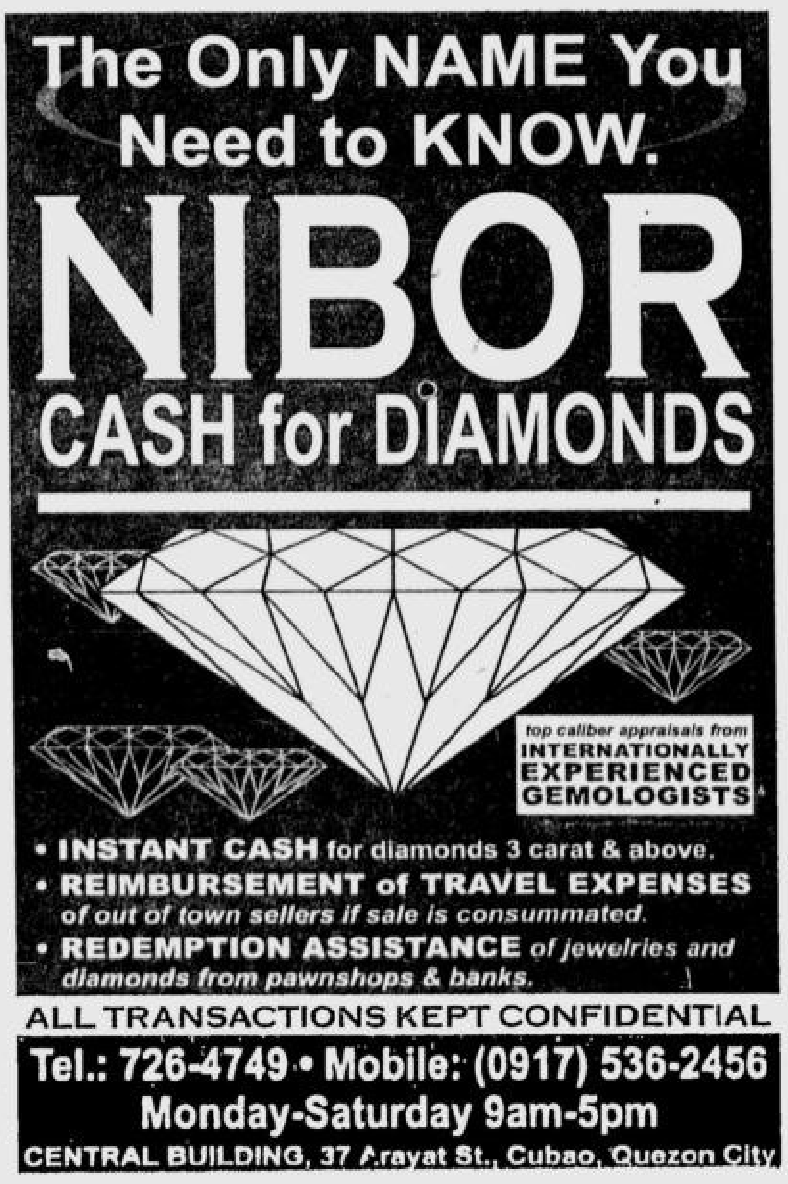
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Sulu off limits to media

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A top Army commander has warned journalists against venturing into the areas of Sulu where the military has launched a massive offensive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits, threatening to "pick (them) up" unless they leave voluntarily.

But Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, claimed he was not imposing a news blackout with the order banning journalists from Indanan, Talipao and Patikul towns.

He said he only wanted to make sure the journalists were safe from Abu Sayyaf bandits whom he fears could resort to more kidnappings to ease the military pressure on them.

Preachers' abduction

The military operation against the bandit group was intensified after the abduction of six Jehovah's Witnesses preachers on Aug. 19. The Abu Sayyaf later beheaded two of the captives.

"Veer away from the areas of Indanan, Talipao and particularly Patikul, where the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits has been intensified," Tolentino warned, saying he would not hesitate to have the "hardheaded" ones picked up.

He said reporters were trying to get as close to the areas of operation as possible in their desire to out-scoop one another.

"If something bad happens to you, it will be our responsibility. Your presence there has been affecting our operation. We have to look after you while we are pursuing the enemy," Tolentino told reporters.

Oplan Endgame

The general said he did not know how many journalists have flocked to Sulu after AFP Chief Gen. Roy Cimatu announced the implementation of Oplan Endgame against the abductors of Cleofe and Florida Montulo, Emily Mantic and Nori Bendijo.

But Tolentino confirmed that more journalists arrived in the island-province after the Sept. 7 encounter in Patikul, where at least eight soldiers died.

Tolentino said he did not want a repeat of the kidnapping in 2000 of journalists covering the Sipadan kidnapping and hostage crisis.

But Joseph Morong of GMA-7 television said the journalists would challenge Tolentino's order.

"Do we have a choice? It's our job to get the real story from the area," Morong said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP MISSION'S FINDINGS

4 more Filipino minors cry rape in Sabah jail

By Michael Lim Ubac

AT LEAST four more minors believed to have been sexually abused by Malaysian guards while in detention in Sabah have been found, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said the Philippine delegation sent to Sabah to probe allegations of maltreatment of Filipino deportees found the four new alleged rape victims in the course of their investigation.

The four remain at an undisclosed detention center in Sabah and have yet to be deported to the Philippines, Perez said.

He said the information was relayed to his office by Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda-Acosta, a member of the delegation.

At least three of the four young victims had revealed their ordeal to Acosta, Perez said.

He said the fourth girl, whom he described as "a confirmed" rape victim, didn't want to press charges.

The discovery of the four new victims came after Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced that the government was consolidating efforts to obtain justice for the first child victim found by authorities, a 13-year-old girl who claimed she was sexually abused by Malaysian guards while in detention.

Ople met with Perez and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman on Saturday.

He said the government would comply with the Malaysian police request to present evidence of the rape.

But, he said, Philippine authorities had yet to decide if they would allow the victim to be brought back to Malaysia to testify. "She is in a fragile state," he said.

Ople added the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has been instructed to hire a lawyer "adept in sexual abuse cases to represent the victim in the ongoing investigation."

The DFA also denied yesterday that Filipino illegals in Italy and Israel faced a crisis similar to the mass deportation of their countrymen from Sabah.

Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, DFA spokesperson, said reports of the mass deportation of hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens from Italy and Israel seemed to have been blown out of proportion.

He said that, on the contrary, Italy has passed a new law that would allow illegal foreigners to regularize their stay in the country. The law could benefit the 30,000 to 40,000 Filipinos illegally in Italy.

"This is not the act of a country that wants to send them away," Lecaros said.

As for Israel, Lecaros said it was also unlikely there would be a crackdown on Filipino illegals there soon. There are some 30,000 Filipinos in Israel.

On another front, Malacañang said it would dialogue with the heirs of the sultan of Sulu over the Sabah claim only after they have appointed their representatives.

During the term of President Fidel Ramos, more than 1,000 heirs showed up for a meeting at the Palace. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said this time, they want a "more manageable" meeting.

He said the heirs would definitely be "consulted" by the newly revived Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) on the Sabah claim.

But he would not promise them that they would sit in the Ledac as "private sector members."

President Macapagal-Arroyo last Friday revived the Ledac on Sabah, which Ramos had created in 1993. *With Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Expulsions hurting KL, says Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad acknowledged Tuesday that the mass expulsion of illegal immigrants has hurt the Malaysian construction industry, but indicated that employers must be prepared to pay the higher cost of hiring legal workers.

Asked if employers were trying to force the government to reverse its decision on illegal immigrants, Mahathir told reporters there would be no reversal but "if they want to have (foreign labor) they must only employ legal ones, so they'll have to pay."

More than 380,000 foreigners left for home during a four-month amnesty ahead of the introduction of tough new penalties for illegal immigrants on Aug. 1.

Two weeks later, after property developers warned that building projects were grinding to a halt and delays would cost millions of dollars, the government reversed a ban on the recruitment of Indonesians for the construction sector. The ban was imposed in February after two riots by Indonesians. *AFP*

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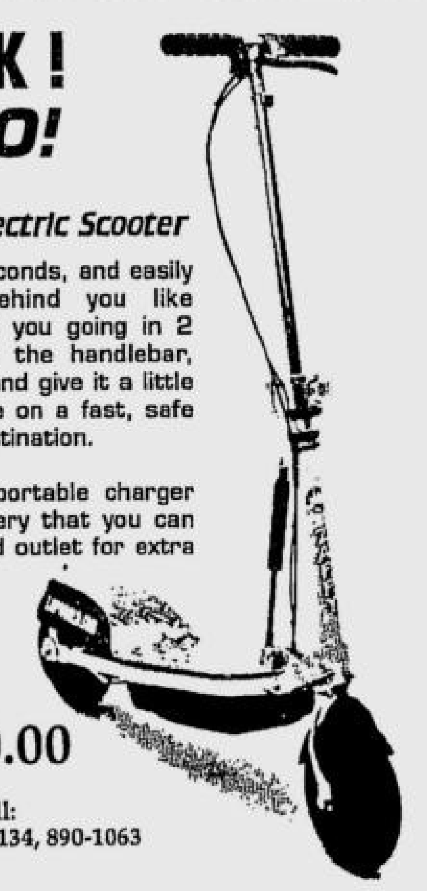
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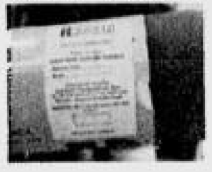
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Elephants and their handlers go through their paces as they prepare for next month's opening of the "Elephant World" at the Araneta Center in Quezon City. The 10 elephants, which arrived last week with their mahouts (trainers) will showcase their intelligence and skills in the newest attraction at the Araneta Center.

Recto asks: Is RUT going to ruts?

By Rocky Nazareno

WHATEVER has become of the road user's tax (RUT) collected from motor vehicle owners that was supposed to go toward the repair of potholes in national roads?

The question was raised by Senate ways and means committee chair Ralph Recto who asked the Department of Finance to account for the P3.7 billion in RUT collected in 2001.

Recto said the public, especially motorists, "should be apprised of how the government spent the P3.7 billion it collected in RUT."

This year, Recto said, the government stands to collect P5 billion in RUT, about half of which it should have collected by now.

Under Republic Act 8794, 80 percent of RUT collections goes to a "special road support fund (SRSF)," while five percent goes into a "special local road fund (SLRF)."

Based on the P3.7 billion collected last year, P2.96 billion should have gone to the SRSF and P185 million to the SLRF.

Of the P2.96 billion that went to the SRSF, P2.08 billion or 70 percent should have gone to the maintenance and improvement of national primary roads and the canals running along them.

The remaining 30 percent of the SRSF, or P888 million, should have gone to the maintenance and improvement of national secondary roads.

Distinct and separate

Cities and provinces were mandated to receive five percent of the total motor vehicle tax collected based on vehicle population and size of road network.

"The funds are distinct and separate from and are in addition to the yearly appropriations of the departments of public works and transportation," Recto said.

RA 8794 also mandates that 7.5 percent of collections be shared by the "special road safety fund (SRSaF)" and the "special vehicle pollution control fund (SVPCF)."

The RUT is being raised through a hike in vehicle registration fees in four installments: 25 percent in 2001, 50 percent in 2002, 75 percent in 2003 and 100 percent in 2004.

"Motorists have already complied with their end of the bargain. It's now government's turn to show where the monies went," Recto said.

He noted that "the safety of our roads do not reflect at all the radical increases in RUT approved two years ago."

"There is a whole disparity between government's pledge and reality," he said.

Imee: Where's P5B for AFP?

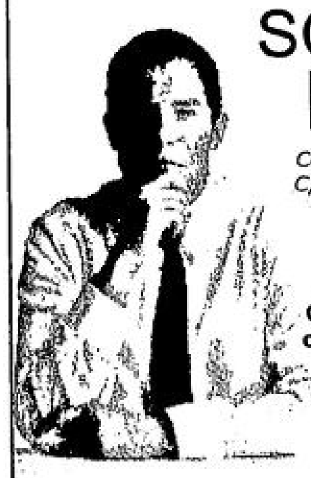
By Juliet L. Javellana

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos wants an investigation on the failure of the government to release P5 billion allotted for the modernization of the Armed Forces.

In House Resolution No. 752, Marcos also said the government has not remitted some P7.8 billion share of the AFP from proceeds from the sale of military camps.

Marcos said the 2002 budget submitted by the Department of Budget Management showed that as of Aug. 31, not a single centavo of the P5 billion AFP modernization fund has been released.

She said the government was obliged under Republic Act 7898, the AFP modernization act, to modernize the AFP.



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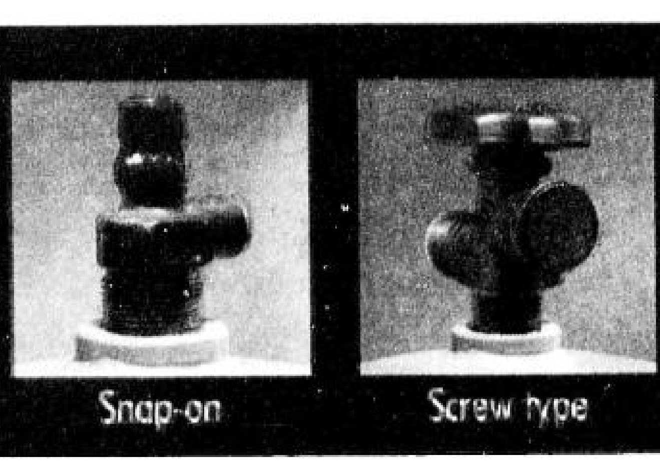

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GMA sets 'new rules of engagement' for AFP

From page A1

law and order chores, was "breaking down everywhere."

"Criminal, terrorist and other armed non-state organizations have grown too powerful and adept," she said. "In extreme cases, we have seen the emergence of criminal enterprise armies and we have seen that here in the Philippines."

The President noted that while new weapons were needed to combat these threats, "we would still lack innovative methodologies and adequately contemporary laws unless we modernize doctrine."

"To address the broad range of emerging threats, yes, we need new weapons, but we also need new rules of engagement," she said, quoting largely from US military analyst and author Ralph Peters.

The President said she was lodging the responsibility for reviewing and modernizing doctrine with the AFP deputy chief of staff, a post currently held by Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, a US West Point graduate.

The President noted that combating organized crime groups "is the modern officer's nightmare, full of impossible restrictions, gray areas and daily opportunities to embarrass the flag and demoralize the force."

The President stressed that the threat posed by criminal and terrorist groups was real.

Citing an example, Ms Macapagal said: "Drugs and drug-related violence have killed more Filipinos, wrecked more lives and cost us more in real peso terms than did the Mindanao war"—referring to the 31-year Muslim separatist rebellion in the south.

"Our cities have been raped and generations of the poor have been lost irretrievably," she said. "That constitutes a threat to our national security."

Military paradigm

The President said the last revolution in military thinking occurred in the early 1990s, during the United States' Desert Storm campaign against Iraq. In that war, "high-tech warfare" was conclusively proven to be effective.

But the era in which military conflict is a duel between nations is at an end, she said. The military paradigm has shifted to new enemies, ranging from "techno-capable crime networks to the machete-swinging clans of warlords."

"Today, with the efficacy of many formal governments in worldwide decline, criminal organizations are becoming new forms of government—for want of a new and better word," she said. "This has powerful implications for statecraft and military activities."

She said that "in the emerging wars against criminal ghost states, para-states and criminal enterprise armies, the modernization of our armed forces would allow us to possess the material tools for the job."

The Department of Defense has said the main threats to national security include communist insurgents, Muslim separatists, terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and criminal gangs.

In her speech, the President noted that government soldiers "are already involved in struggles against organized crime, local and international, fighting drug cartels and fighting other criminal ghost states."

Counter-terrorism

Earlier this year, the AFP held a six-month counter-terrorism exercise with US troops, in areas where Abu Sayyaf bandits operate.

The military, which is one of the most poorly equipped in Southeast Asia and battling the longest-running communist insurgency in the region, has increasingly taken on internal security and police-oriented tasks. It has been the spearhead in the fight against the notorious Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, who stepped down as AFP chief of staff yesterday, said the military organizationally had slowly "transitioned" into a force against terrorism, which he added has replaced the 34-year communist insurgency as the country's No. 1 security threat.

"Terrorism is the graver threat," he said in a radio interview. "It is a more difficult threat to deal with because it targets the population, it targets innocent people and they (the terrorists) are harder to find."

Singapore summit

In Singapore, Minister of State for Defense Cedric Foo told a meeting of Southeast Asian army chiefs that transnational cooperation was more crucial than ever in the post-Sept. 11 period.

Security challenges are rising in a region where nests of extremists allegedly allied with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network are holed up.

Foo told the military chiefs from the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) that new approaches were needed to deal with security threats in a region where the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore have all uncovered cells of militants allegedly linked to al-Qaida.

"The nature of the new terrorism is global in scope and organization. It requires a reexamination of old approaches and responses," he said.

"The events of Sept. 11 have provided an impetus for countries to cooperate more closely." In addition to global terrorism, the region continued to face other security concerns with potential flashpoints in South Asia, the Taiwan Strait and the Korean Peninsula.

Foo said defense forces now also had to address non-conventional threats, which is "not an area which military forces have traditionally been involved in to any large extent.

"The challenge is to re-examine the military's traditional modus operandi, adapt existing doctrines to cope with the new threats, develop new capabilities where needed, and improve coordination with other government agencies to respond effectively."

More than 100 delegates from the armies of the 10 Asean countries are attending the conference.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

With reports from AP, AFP

APAGAL-
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CHANGE of command rites at Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday from AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu to Gen. Benjamin Defensor is attended by President Macapagal. VAL HANDUMON

Defensor: 10 tasks, 69 days

From page A1

These include better-trained and better-clothed soldiers, more troops engaged in development projects and young officers involved in strategy and scenario building.

Defensor assured the AFP that he would not change its course and that he would hasten its modernization. "We will project the force and resolve conflict in a new, but fascinating dimension," he said.

He also laid out "guidelines" for fighting poverty and crime, for promoting good governance and peace and for establishing a Filipino defense industry.

On poverty, he called on the audience to be productive. On good governance, he said the military justice system must be strengthened and the procurement system improved.

Defensor is the fourth AFP chief of staff of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Of the four, two were given extensions, Gen. Roy Cimatu and Defensor.

VIPs absent

Observers noted the absence of the usual VIPs in the audience, notably former President Fidel Ramos, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane of the Philippine National Police, Army chief Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, military men-turned politicians and former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, sister of the new AFP chief of staff.

Santiago is identified with the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

But their absence did not deter the new military chief, whose extension has been criticized by various sectors, from beaming continually throughout the turnover ceremony.

Ms Macapagal took it upon herself to vouch for the loyalty of Defensor.

Defensor "has proven his loyalty to the service and the flag and the Constitution countless times," the President said.

"There should be no doubt left in our minds that Benjie Defensor will uphold the constitutional mandate and sustain the unity of purpose and singularity of direction that now drive the Armed Forces," the President said at the turnover ceremony.

She said that Defensor proved that he was a "professional's professional" when he joined the AFP command in withdrawing support from Estrada during the Edsa II uprising in January 2001.

"It was not easy for him to be at Edsa II but he was there," Ms Macapagal said.

The President also said that Defensor helped her contain the uprising of Estrada supporters on May 1, 2001, which was preceded by demonstrations at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong where then Senator Santiago was one of the speakers.

"Someday, maybe, I can tell the story of how Benjie helped me prepare for the mayhem of May 1, and that was why we were ready," the President said.

Heart of a poet

Describing Defensor as a "pilot with the heart of a poet," the President said he was a "true officer and a gentleman."

In her speech, the President defended her decision to appoint Defensor even though he was supposed to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 12.

The President extended Defensor's term until Nov. 18 despite criticisms of her supposed "revolving door policy" in naming AFP chiefs of staff

"These critics are wrong," she said. "They do not appreciate the principle of professional continuity in the military command—the command as an institution and not a command as persons."

The President said her critics presumed that leadership in the Armed Forces was politicized.

"Leadership in the Armed Forces is not politicized. It is professional. These critics are wrong because they underestimate the loyalty and the professionalism of the men in uniform," she said.

She described Cimatu, who served for only four months, as "one of the best generals in the whole world."

The President said that she would have extended Cimatu's term further "but it is time for Benjie to have the crowning glory of his career."

As he turned over the military command to Defensor, Cimatu bade goodbye to his troops. Cimatu said he had one regret in his career—his failure to oversee the demise of the Abu Sayyaf and other armed groups.

Baguio artists make 500 masks to describe post-Sept. 11 emotions

From page A1

the victims of last year's terror attacks and served as warning to the "future victims of state terrorism all over the world."

The masks brought together Espiritu's interests in literature, philosophy and mythology. An actor and director trained by the Philippine Educational Theater Association trained actor and director, Espiritu has been researching indigenous Filipino culture since he emigrated to Baguio in the 1980s.

He said he set out to do ordinary faces, hoping to mirror the quality of Filipino lifestyles. But he said the emotions he saw—in mothers leaving grocery stores, in fathers looking dazed after work, in temperamental children—were marked by tension and fear. It was then he realized that the world was undergoing another age of anxiety.

He said newspapers almost always carried a story or two about terrorism, or the consequences of US President George W. Bush's pledge to wage war against smaller nations, or of Abu Sayyaf bandits terrorizing Basilan and Sulu.

Two episodes

"I remember Sept. 11 for two separate episodes of my life," Espiritu said. "It is the birthday of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who declared martial law. I see the same iron hand all over the world from leaders who suddenly want to show strength to hide their fears after the passenger airplanes shattered the World Trade Center last year," he said in Filipino.

Espiritu said he grew up thinking of Americans as the "white gods" who had access to the best bars and restaurants of Olongapo City, where Subic Naval Base was located.

But that image masked the poverty and violence of the martial law years, he recalled, because military operations and murders were occurring in Bataan where Espiritu was growing up.

"I saw blood countless of times. I was 10 when I saw my friends snatched by heavily armed military men. Children grew up in an environment of fear. When I saw the airplane crashing into the World Trade Center on television (last year), that image did not give me the same terror I felt when I was 10. But I am seeing the martial-law terror arising from the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001," he said.

At the exhibit, Espiritu's mime troupe, "Tropang Paltok," also acted out its actors' perspectives on terrorism.

The student-actors illustrated "terror" and "fear" in three impromptu mime sequences.

In one of them, two male actors wearing red suits wrapped their eyes with gauze strips and danced on high stools with small hand-sized masks waving in the air. These actors appeared to represent the elusive nature of "terrorism," which Ms Macapagal had vowed to destroy.

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No go for PCSO's online lottery

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT'S no go for the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's "cyberspace" gambling scheme.

In a legal opinion issued early this month, the Office of Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) junked the PCSO's controversial proposal to operate an online lottery through the internet, or through texting (short messaging system).

OGCC Chief Amado D. Valdez said in a statement that allowing the operation would provide people, the youth included, "with virtually unfettered access to gambling at anytime and from any place."

Roland Eclevia, OGCC consultant for media relations, told the INQUIRER that the PCSO itself sought the government lawyer's advice.

Eclevia said Valdez issued the opinion in response to whether it was legal for the PCSO and the state-run gambling firm Diversified Financial Network (DFN) to have entered into a lease agreement without public bidding."

Valdez said the lease agreement was necessary to enable DFN to operate the online lottery via mobile phones. But he stressed that the agreement was "contrary to law, morals and public policy," and was therefore void.

In the exercise of its authority, Valdez pointed out, the PCSO, could enter into an equipment lease agreement through a negotiated contract, or without public bidding. But it should have first invited other companies, through an ad in a newspaper of general circulation, to submit quotations to ensure that the project is advantageous to the government.

He noted that the United States government, which has its own state-run lottery games, earlier barred betting through telephones and computers.

Apart from the legal implications, Valdez said, the safeguards being put in place to regulate the proposed gambling scheme were "vague and unworkable."

The PCSO had meant to ensure that the numbers game would be beyond the reach of minors, with the use of prepaid cards.

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New BIR chief has his work cut out for him

NEW Bureau of Internal Revenue chief Guillermo Parayno joked recently that he hoped to avoid breaking the record for the shortest stint as head of the agency—just seven days.

The ex-naval officer and former Customs chief, appointed on Aug. 28, has managed to avoid that fate but commentators believe he has his work cut out to clean up a bureau that has become a by-word in the country for corruption and inefficiency.

"Commissioners traditionally have never really been in control of the BIR. Power tends to lie with the resident officers and examiners," said Prof. Romulo Neri, an economist at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila.

The bureau's critics say its officials take bribes in return for under-assessing tax.

The agency's failure to hit revenue targets has been cited as the key reason for the country's fiscal deficit expanding to P133.1 billion for the first seven months of this year, already ahead of the full-year target of P130 billion, and up from P114.09 billion a year earlier.

The government has tried to play down the shortfall, insisting that improvements are on the way and that the deficit manageable.

Financial markets disagree. Philippine sovereign bond spreads rose in the last couple of months, in tandem with growing deficit jitters.

Tax Achilles Heel

Weak tax collection has been the Achilles heel of the Philippines economy for years, with deficit targets frequently exceeded, although the current administration came close to meeting its goal in 2001.

In a recent study, American financial house Morgan Stanley estimated that the Philippines' uncollected tax was running at around $7.6 billion a year.

"This adds up to a staggering $205 billion from 1965. The sum is enough to retire all debt, foreign and domestic in the combined government and private sector (as of 2001)," it said.

Reforming the agency proved too difficult for Parayno's predecessor, Rene Banez, who quit after just 19 months.

For his part, Parayno has vowed to continue with the reforms initiated by Banez and has ordered a probe into seven officers suspected of involvement in a scam in which tax payments were diverted into private bank accounts.

And he will be hoping that he can win over the staff.

"They have welcomed me. It may not be sincere, however I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt for now."

Reuters

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G. Cosmos head falls in Japan

TOKYO— Seven top executives of a Japanese advertising company that used to operate a subsidiary in the Philippines were arrested yesterday on suspicion of defrauding investors of hundreds of millions of dollars (tens of billions of yen).

Police took into custody G. Cosmos Japan Co. chairman, Genta Ogami, who allegedly ran an elaborate mail-order fund without a license and promised high returns to investors who were never paid, a Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesperson said.

He refused to provide the names of the six others arrested or discuss further details.

Public media network NHK said G. Cosmos collected around US$364 million (48 billion yen) from more than 40,000 investors between February 1997 and January this year.

The money investors put in, at least $152 (20,000 yen), paid for advertisements for home appliances and other gadgets and was supposed to yield a six-month return as high as 20 percent—well above rates of less than 1 percent on Japanese bank deposits—depending on how well the products sold, NHK said.

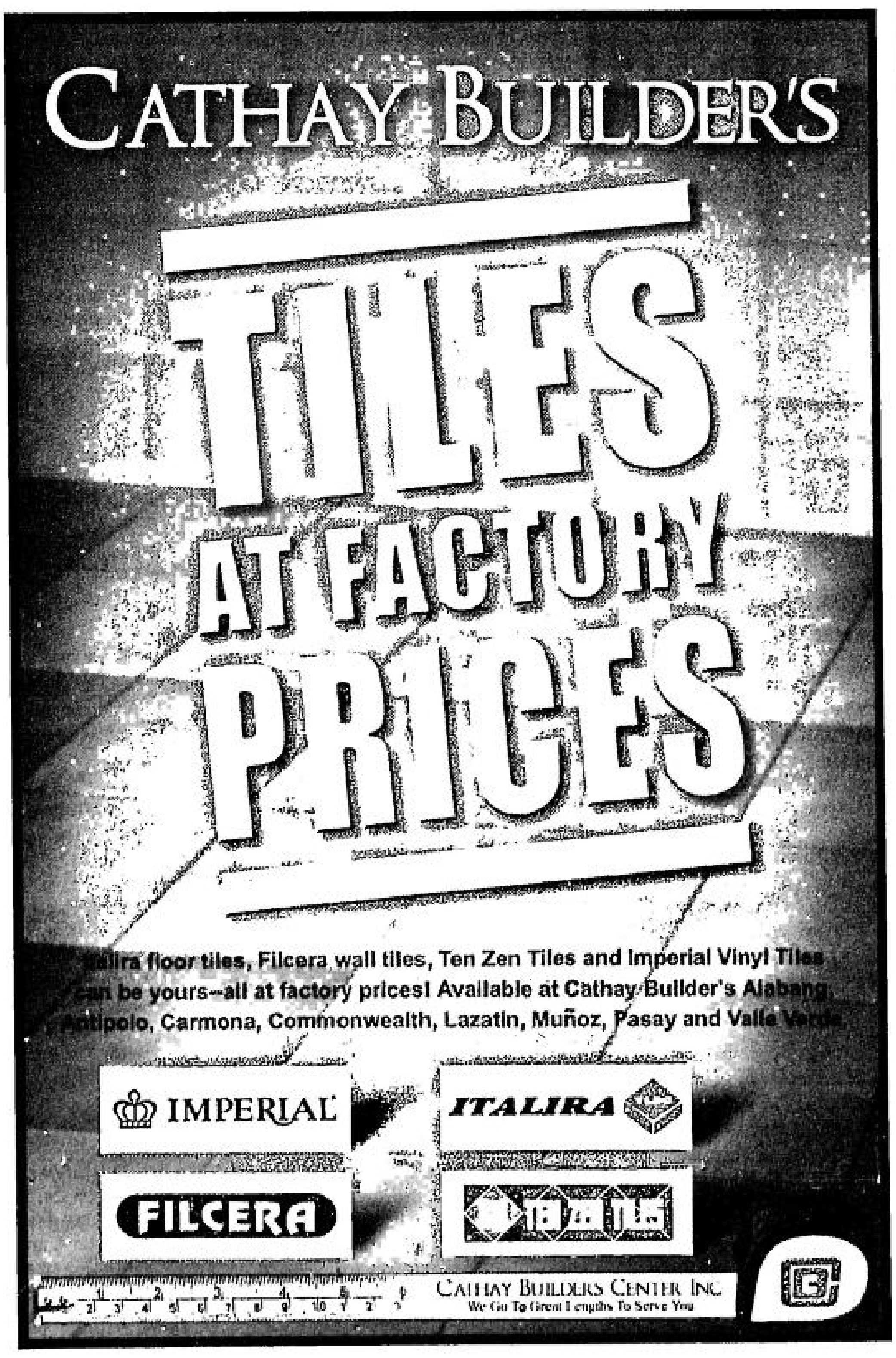
None of the investors ever received dividends or returns, though many were sent monthly statements charting their gains, the network quoted police as saying. A separate scheme involved selling bonds promising annual returns of up to 15 percent.

NHK said police believe Ogami spent investors' money on luxury cars, property and expensive clothes. He is also suspected of using the cash to make an action movie that starred himself but was never released, it said.

G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. was shut down by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Jan. 7 for illegally selling securities.

The SEC fined G. Cosmos Philippines and ordered it to refund investors' money.

AP



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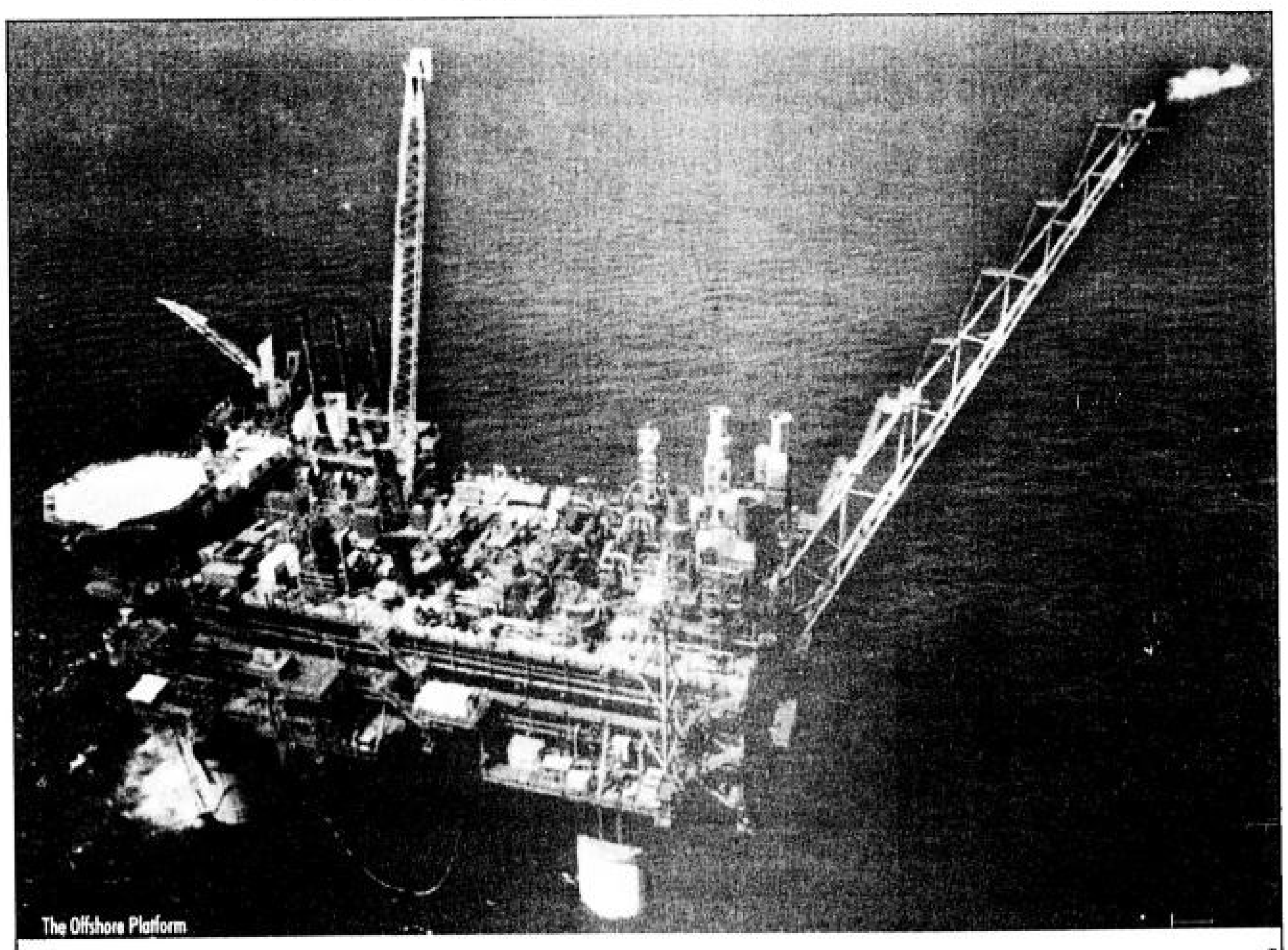

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Vol. 17 No. 272
ISSN
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OPINION

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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War drums in a time. . .

From page A1

EDITORIAL

and anger, Americans must have drawn some strength and inspiration from the courage of so many others, starting with the brave passengers of Flight 93 who fought the hijackers for control of the aircraft, ultimately bringing the plane down in an unpopulated area of Pennsylvania and sparing the White House from certain destruction. Then there were the hundreds of New York City firefighters who went up the Twin Towers to save people trapped there, and perished in a heap of steel and concrete along with more than 3,000 others. And of course there were the thousands of volunteers who labored day and night to find survivors and dig up the dead from the rubble. The story of Sept. 11 will never be complete without mention of their unselfish dedication and heroism.

Three days after the national tragedy, US President George Bush told his nation: "Our unity is in a kinship of grief and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extended across the world."

He was partly right. America did not mourn alone after the horror of Sept. 11. America's grief was also the world's grief. And it was not only because of our common humanity but also because the sons and daughters of many nations around the globe were incinerated and crushed into dust when the World Trade Center crumbled to the ground.

But it is doubtful now if he has the world behind him as he threatens to carry further his war against international terrorism. It is not because the rest of the world doesn't recoil in horror at the wanton destruction of Sept. 11. Neither is it because other nations want to coddle terrorists. The problem is that only British Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seem to agree with his definition of who is a terrorist. Even America's allies in Europe and its neighbors, like Canada, cannot agree that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is a terrorist and poses a threat to world peace.

Nobody argued with Bush when he pledged before the US Congress that "justice will be done." Everyone understood him when he vowed to "direct every resource at our command...to the defeat of the global terror network." Up to that point, the objectives seemed clear enough: to bring to justice the terrorists who had destroyed a great symbol of American progress and humiliated the mightiest nation on earth, and keep Americans safe and secure. While his objective was limited to the destruction of the global network of terror of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida organization, Bush could count on the support of many nations. If that meant the destruction of the hated Taliban regime as well, so much the better.

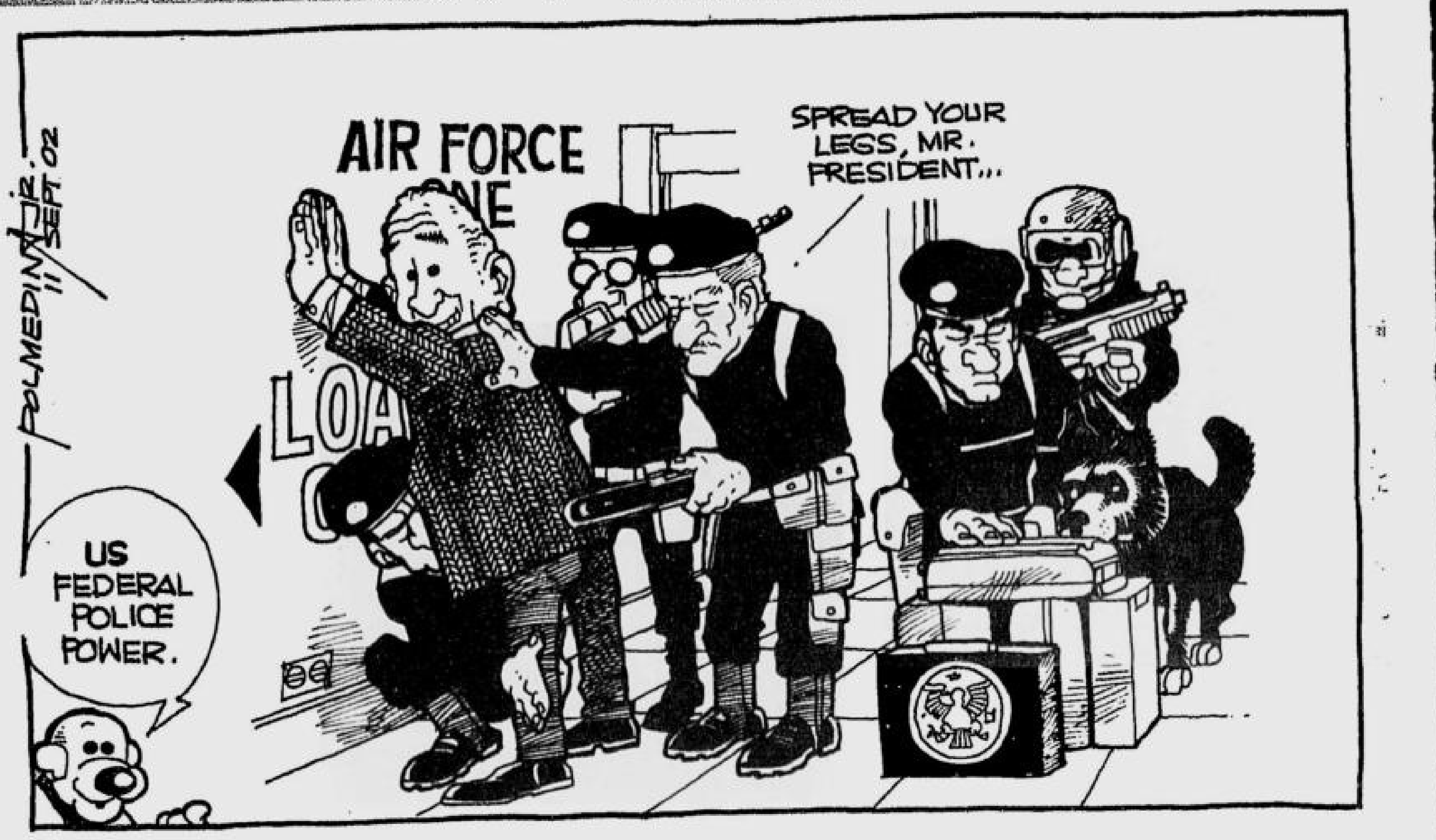
But now it makes little sense to most other nations for the United States to wage war against Saddam on the mere suspicion that he has a stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. And it scares them even more to think that it could trigger a wider war involving the entire Middle East, if not the whole world. But Bush, it seems, will not be deterred by their fears and their counsel.

"I think we are in a very dangerous relationship with the rest of the world," Arthur Schlesinger warned in a recent forum organized by Newsweek. "The go-it-alone policy of the United States—of the present administration—shows a certain amount of condescension and contempt for international institutions and for international opinion."

One year into a campaign that has sent American troops to Afghanistan and Basilan, it is doubtful if Americans feel much safer and secure than they were in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack. Bin Laden, the chief architect of the attack, is believed to be alive. And now Bush would like to expand his war to Iraq?

After Sept. 11, the Pulitzer Prize winning biographer David Levering Lewis observed, there was "a virtual consecration on the part of Americans to self-assessment and to probing the circumstances that produced the greatest violation of our sense of self since Pearl Harbor." Americans were starting to believe that there was an earnest search for answers to the question, "Why do they hate us?" They were trying to understand why people in Europe and the developing world were saying they were not surprised that something so terrible happened. Americans should go back to searching for the answers to those questions, Lewis suggested.

Finding the answers could be the key to formulating the appropriate response to America's growing fear and isolation as well as the very real threats to its security. But with Bush beating the war drum, how will Americans find the peace and quiet for careful reflection?



Recall law on recall elections

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Sept. 6, we advocated the repeal of the recall provision in the Local Government Code because it is being abused by politicians. I am glad to report that the father of the Local Government Code himself, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., agrees.

"We want to abolish that provision," Pimentel said of the Preparatory Recall Assembly which empowers the majority of barangay officials to initiate the recall of local chief executives. "There should be only one mode for recall and that is directly by the people themselves."

"This was the original intent of the law," Pimentel said, "but the PRA was inserted at the last minute at the prodding of some congressmen during the previous Congress.

"Originally, it was not there because we wanted the power of recall to be lodged with the people directly and not exercised through the barangay chairmen," the senator said.

Pimentel said he would push the Senate to correct this when it acts on amendments to the Local Government Code.

Politicians are abusing this recall power by mobilizing barangay officials into signing recall petitions. Thus, a mere handful of barangay officials can overturn the wishes of tens of thousands of voters by recalling the mayor they elected. Several recall petitions are now pending at the Comelec. The recall election for Puerto Princesa was stopped by the Supreme Court.

* * *

Other people agree as well. lawyer Romulo B. Macalintal, an expert on election laws, sent a letter to shed more light on recall elections and the Supreme Court's opinion on it:

"I fully agree with your observation in your column today (Sept. 6) that 'recall elections are being abused by politicians,'" Macalintal wrote.

"This is especially true in recall elections initiated by the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA), one of the methods of recalling a local elective official under the Local Government Code, where only a handful or majority of clearly and highly partisan municipal, city or barangay officials initiate the recall proceedings. The other method of recall is the one initiated in a petition by at least 25 percent of the total registered voters of the concerned local government unit. However, the latter has not been used because politicians know very well that it would be difficult and expensive to convince 25 percent of their constituents to initiate the recall of an elective official.

"Thus, as early as in the case of the recall of former Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia, the Supreme Court in its resolution of Dec. 7, 1993 took 'the opportunity to call attention to the urgency of addressing by appropriate legislation the undefined areas on the recall process (under the Local Government Code) in order to better bring to fore the constitutional mandate.'

"Should our legislators find time to refine our laws on recall elections, I suggest that they also refer to the separate opinion of Supreme Court Justice Reynato S. Puno contained in the April 4, 2000 resolution of the Court in the Pasay City recall case. In that case, the erudite Justice Puno said that while 'I do not wish to trivialize the right to recall of Preparatory Recall Assemblies (but with due respect), recall initiatives of these assemblies are not as politically unassailable as recalls initiated directly by the people. When initiated by the people themselves, there is greater assurance of the need to listen to the voice of the people once more on the issue of who should govern them. Regretfully, this assurance is doubtful in recall initiated by Preparatory Recall Assemblies.'

"Justice Puno likewise cited the 'not too distant Caloocan City experience where Mayor (Reynaldo) Malonzo was sought to be recalled by a Preparatory Recall Assembly (as) the irrefutable evidence of a recall election that should not have been initiated at all. Its result was an embarrassing repudiation by the people of the city's Preparatory Recall Assembly. In fine, experience tells us that Preparatory Recall Assemblies do not always serve as the mouthpiece of the people. They can misread the will of the people, and when they do, these Assemblies are the cause of unwanted and wasteful recall elections.'

"I hope our politicians could at least observe a moratorium on politics and start considering and caring for the present needs of our people. Public funds are supposed to be spent for public good and not for the whims and caprices of politicians who want to get even with their political rivals. It is also high time for the Commission on Elections to look deeper into the grounds cited by politicians in their recall petitions. The Comelec's function in adjudicating petitions for recall is not only ministerial but quasi-judicial as it involves the appreciation and evaluation of evidence to justify the recall election. But more importantly, the Comelec should also guard against the use of public money to practically finance partisan political activities disguised as lawful recall elections."

Prayer for peace

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I WROTE the stuff below way back in Feb. 12, 1991. It was originally a prayer for media, which I was asked by friends to make for a rally in Quezon Memorial Circle by groups protesting the US bombing of Baghdad at the height of the Gulf War.

What struck me at the time I wrote it was the level of abstraction the war had taken, the US State Department and the Pentagon using such phrases as "smart bombs," "friendly fire" and "collateral damage" to depict it. Yes, that was the first time "collateral damage" was used, a phrase that has now crept into the popular lexicon, enough for Arnold Schwarzenneger to make a movie with it. Media had no small help in this sanitization, echoing these words and spreading them with relish. The Gulf War might have been a computer game. Better the boy in "Sixth Sense" who at least saw dead people. Media did not. They saw only destroyed targets and tally sheets before someone told them, "Game over."

American saber-rattling with Iraq today brings all this to mind. With particularly loud reverberations in the wake of 9/11 and George Bush Jr.'s threats to use nuclear force, if necessary, to bring that "rogue country" to heel. I am reminded again of Joseph Gerson's remarks that in this context, "nuclear weapons (have become) as abstract as the man in the moon and as dated as record players." Their capacity to kill (not waste, not terminate, not delete, but kill) human beings (not targets, not mission objectives, not the Enemy, but flesh-and-blood individuals, including women and children) has been blurred into invisibility.

The first anniversary of 9/11 is the best time to think about these things again, to look at the wisdom of worshipping at the feet of Baal, the god who promises heaven on earth with smart bombs, ICBMs and nuclear holocaust. The first anniversary of 9/11 is a good time to recollect the faces again of those who perished in the two towers of the World Trade Center and the airplanes that were used to raze them. It is a good time to reflect on the heroism of the individuals who tried to fight off terrorism, eventually paying with their lives for it. It is a good time to remember the tears of those they left behind and the anguish not just of a nation but of the world.

But for the same reason, it is also a good time to give a face—something we have never really done before—to those who perished elsewhere from other acts of terror, for there is no other way the victims of those acts, or the ones they leave behind can see them, but as that. It is a good time to see that the loss of sister or mother or son or father is just as incalculable in the sands of the desert as it is in the "canyons of steel," as the song "Autumn in New York," describes New York. It is a good time to see that the face of the child that is lying on the ground, wrapped up in sheets with only his head revealed, ready to be ditched into a huge and gaping hole along with others, is that of our very own son or our daughter.

It is a good time to feel pain so that we can know laughter. It is a good time to see the war so we can crave peace. Here is my prayer:

Grant us, oh anitos, oh Yahweh, oh Allah:

In this hour of murder and madness, when men worship at the feet of the new Baal, a leaden statue of a bomb with eyes that see, when birds of death blot out the sky and men call the darkness light; when the new Herods put the children to the sword and call their slaughter justice; when the anguished and bereaved sob like the desert wind and men hear only the sighs of computer keys; when men deceive themselves and call it honesty; when men are silent and call it impartiality; when men are numb and call it objectivity; when death is life, riot is order and lie is truth;

Grant us, oh anitos, o Yahweh, oh Allah:

Grant us to see, like the sun rising, the torn bodies of those who fell in the night, to hear the roar of a small boy crying while the sirens wail; to smell the stench of the dead and the ranker smell of holy men who dream of raising heaven on their bones; to taste the rotten fruit of false faiths: democracy, liberation, emancipation—what lofty names by which to commit the foulest deeds; to feel the earth shake, the sun darken, the moon shriek with blood, as the planet tears itself from its orbit and civilization from its moral moorings; grant us the gift of the senses, that we may know the war—not the war that the newspapers wrap up so tidily like dried fish, but the war that drips, like blood, across the desert sands;

But no, oh anitos, oh Yahweh, oh Allah, grant us more than this:

Grant us to know the war like the death of all that is near and precious to us, *our* boy, *our* girl, taken from us by an act so barbarous and obscene; grant us to know a grief so deep and terrible it blots our soul like an oil spill, snuffing the air from all that lives there; grant us to know a rage that will arraign our persecutors by its utter helplessness and purity, a divine rumble like the voice of God Himself, drowning out the howls of a mob thirsting for blood, "Kill, kill, in the name of Mars, in the name of Rome, in the name of Caesar," grant us to know a will to cry out with all the force of our being, "*Tama na, sobra na, itigil na*, no more will we throw our children to the fires of Baal, let the madness stop."

Grant us, oh anitos, oh Yahweh, oh Allah:

To see that the war rages not in some distant land but in our homes, not to others but to ourselves; grant us to see that the truth takes wings not from our tongues but from our hearts, not from our words but from our lives;

Grant us to see the death that we may embrace life; grant us to see the lie that we may embrace the truth; grant us to see the war that we may yearn for peace.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

China's Jiang ready to retire by November

NEWS ANALYSIS

Joe McDonald

BEIJING—A Chinese author with access to secret official documents has provided evidence that President Jiang Zemin is ready to give up his top posts, despite rumors of a struggle to stay in power, according to two US-based scholars who worked with the author.

Jiang will begin by going ahead with plans to hand over his title as Communist Party secretary general to his vice president, Hu Jintao, at a party congress in November, said the scholars. That clashes with rumors that the 76-year-old president was resisting pressure to step down, threatening to wreck a succession plan that was nearly a decade in the making.

"I think it's the smoothest succession in the history of global communism," said one of the scholars, Andrew J. Nathan, a Chinese politics specialist at Columbia University.

The Chinese author is publishing a Chinese-language book in the United States quoting party documents that outline the succession plans. Nathan and Bruce Gilley, a Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University and former journalist in China, are preparing a book in English based on the documents and their own analysis.

The question of how Jiang's generation gives up power and how free a hand younger leaders are given will affect how China copes with challenges ranging from rural anger over poverty and corruption to a bankrupt financial system and the shock of opening the country's economy to more imports and foreign competition.

Foreign observers say many problems have only gotten worse over the past five years as Jiang's generation of leaders in their 70s put off making painful changes in the economy and China's secretive political system.

Nathan and Gilley say they didn't see the original documents cited by the Chinese author, who uses the pseudonym Zong Hairen to protect himself and his sources from official retaliation. But they said that based on their knowledge of Chinese politics and Zong, as well as dozens of hours of interviews with him, they believe his material is genuine.

Zong's book is titled "Disidai," or "Fourth Generation," a reference to the coming leadership. Jiang's group is known as the "Third Generation," following earlier eras of communist founder Mao Zedong and the late supreme leader Deng Xiaoping.

The book quotes detailed files from the party's Organization Department that track the careers of Hu and dozens of other senior party figures, describing their accomplishments and quoting from their speeches, according to Nathan and Gilley.

The last files are from early 2002, but Nathan and Gilley said Zong stayed in touch with official sources in China and kept them updated on developments including the summer conference at the seaside resort of Beidaihe where Chinese leaders are believed to have settled the final details of Jiang's retirement.

Plans are believed to call for Jiang to hand over his post as party leader to Hu in November under a sweeping plan for the current leadership to retire and be replaced by officials in their 50s and 60s. Hu, who is 59, was picked by Deng in the early '90s for grooming as Jiang's successor in an attempt at preparing for an orderly change of power.

Jiang's term as president ends next year. There has been no word on when he would give up his third and most powerful post as chair of the committee that controls the Chinese military, though he was expected to hand it over to Hu as early as next year.

Over the past few months, however, rumors have swirled that Jiang was resisting stepping down as party leader or would try to retain influence by staying on at the military commission. Deng did the same in the mid-1980s, holding onto the military post after retiring as party boss.

"We don't believe there's any factual basis for the talk about Jiang trying to stay," said Gilley. "We believe that what we have is the only reliable account of what is going on."

Gilley, a Canadian, reported on China for seven years for the Far Eastern Economic Review, a Hong Kong-based magazine. He has written several books on China, including a biography of Jiang.

Nathan, a leading US scholar of Chinese politics, was an editor of "The Tiananmen Papers," a collection of official documents published last year that recounts the leadership's struggle over how to handle the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Enraged Chinese leaders publicly rejected the work as fiction, but reportedly launched a nationwide hunt for the officials who released the documents.

Zong also published a book abroad earlier this year titled "Zhu Rongji in 1999," a flattering portrayal of China's premier that criticized Jiang and Li Peng, the No. 2 man in the party and chair of the national legislature. Nathan refused to say whether Zong was also Zhang Liang, the pseudonymous Chinese official who supplied documents for "The Tiananmen Papers."

According to Zong's documents and other information, five of the seven members of the next party Politburo Standing Committee—the most powerful body in China—were picked as early as 1997, Nathan and Gilley said.

They include Hu, Wen Jiabao, expected to be premier; Luo Gan, in charge of security and law enforcement; and Zeng Qinghong, a Jiang protégé.

A key issue, they say, was the candidacy of Li Ruihuan, a former mayor of the eastern city of Tianjin who has clashed repeatedly with Jiang over policy. Nathan and Gilley say Jiang tried in vain to win support to force the 68-year-old Li into retirement.

AP

After the disaster

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A STUDY commissioned by the New York public school system six months after last year's World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks shows that while the vast majority of American children were not traumatized by the events of 9/11, children in New York "had a higher rate of mental problems than would be expected under normal circumstances."

More than 10 percent of the students surveyed had symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the findings reveal, showing symptoms like flashbacks to the events, feeling numbness or detachment from everyday life, irritability, angry outbursts and trouble concentrating.

Children living near "Ground Zero" showed the strongest signs of emotional and psychological trouble, the researchers said. Which is only to be expected. Steve Brock, spokesperson for the National Association of School Psychologists, says physical proximity (to the site of a disaster) "is the most powerful predictor of emotional injury or trauma." Another factor, he said, is the duration of the trauma. Families in lower Manhattan, near the WTC, were displaced from their homes in some cases, and they had to live with the recovery effort going on when they returned.

Everybody said America, and the world, "would never be the same again" after those two planes slammed into the Twin Towers and the jet liner crashed into the Pentagon. And indeed, for the families of those who perished in the attacks and in the rescue effort, the axis of the world shifted, never to be right again.

* * *

BUT how has it been for the rest of us? As for the children of New York, so it has been for the rest of the world. The emotional and psychological impact has been directly proportional to our physical distance from the sites of the attacks.

The World Trade Center disaster, particularly, resonated far beyond the boundaries of lower Manhattan. People from as many as 80 countries worked in the Twin Towers, and their people back home mourned with the rest of the United States at the loss of life and the malice of terrorism. However touched by grief we were, though, we were not around to see the buildings reaching out to the sky suddenly disappearing into a hole in the ground, a complex of structures reduced to a zero of rubble and human remains.

After the saturation coverage in the weeks and months following the attacks, it was easy for us to brush the event away from consciousness. True, the events reverberated far beyond the immediate disaster. Even from this distance, we felt the impact on our markets and our economy. To this day, the events have repercussions on our politics and foreign policy. But when the headlines receded, it was easy for us to go back to our own lives.

* * *

SO life has gone on. But if, for the children of lower Manhattan, witnessing the events of Sept. 11, 2002 resulted in signs of posttraumatic stress disorder six months after, I wonder what the impact was on the children of Afghanistan months after the bombing of their towns, the destruction of their homes, the deaths and dislocation. Thousands of Afghans, we must realize, are still living in refugee camps in Pakistan, and stability has yet to fully return to Afghan politics and civil life.

"Ground zero" for these children is not just a few depressing city blocks on the tip of Manhattan, it is their very homes and country, the squalid camps where they and many among their parents' generation grew up, the day-to-day insecurity of a life lived still under the shadow of war.

Much as "Dubya" might have wished 9/11 to have been the harbinger of an armed and political realignment, the elimination of the shadowy threat of terrorism, it has yet to usher in that shift, despite the heavy price paid by Afghanistan. True, the Taliban have fallen from power and can no longer thumb their noses at the world's only Superpower. But Osama bin Laden remains at large, and even now the terrorist cells maintain the capacity to threaten the security of the rest of the world. George W. Bush's fighting words in the wake of 9/11 remain empty threats, hollow posturing.

No wonder Bush is itching to start another war, suddenly finding in Saddam Hussein, sidelined since Bin Laden usurped his place as "America's Most Wanted," an excuse to resolve the unfinished business of the United States' uncompleted wars. So how much more posttraumatic stress disorders would he be willing to impose on the children of Iraq, and on the children of American soldiers who'll be sent to wage war in the name of the Bush administration's wounded machismo?

* * *

THERE are Filipino children on whom last year's disaster has had tremendous impact. We see them still every night on the TV news, the children of Sandakan and other towns in Sabah, the children of Filipino migrants ordered to leave their homes of many years, decades even, in the wake of the Malaysian government's fear of terrorist infiltration.

The policy of expulsion makes little sense, for if the long-time migrants had really wanted to sow terrorism, they could have done so long ago. If anything, Malaysia had been a refuge for Muslim rebels seeking to wage war in the Philippines, a place of sanctuary for people wanted by the Philippine government.

For the children of the deportees, posttraumatic stress disorder will be the result of being uprooted from home, of days of incarceration and hunger, of a dangerous, miserable sea voyage aboard crowded ships. No bombs or missiles may have been dispersed, but war has been waged just the same on these children.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Why Intramuros should remain with the IA

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MANILA in colonial times was not the sprawling metropolis we have today. Spanish Manila, the capital of the Philippines, was the area enclosed by the walls of Intramuros. Everything outside or extra-muros like Ermita, Malate, Quiapo, Binondo, etc. part of present-day Manila, were *arrabales* or suburbs. Many people fail to see this distinction, nor do they remember that from the American period to our time, Intramuros has undergone continuous heritage conservation independent of the city government of Manila. Things are about to change in this side of the world because currently under review and discussion by the House committee on governmental reorganization, chaired by Rizal Rep. Victor Sumulong, are two draft bills that seek to grant the mayor of Manila control over the administration and development of Intramuros. These bills seek to transfer the Intramuros Administration (IA) from the Department of Tourism to the City of Manila, and to name the mayor of Manila as IA chair. While these bills were filed separately by two different Manila congressmen, both have the same end. The texts, with some minor differences, are almost carbon copies of each other, making me wonder why the congressmen didn't save time and effort by jointly sponsoring one bill. These bills are HB 2706: "An act giving the administration and development of Intramuros under the direct control and supervision of the City of Manila, amending for the purposes Presidential Decree numbered one thousand, six hundred sixteen entitled 'Creating the Intramuros administration for purposes of restoring and administering the development of Intramuros,'" authored by Rep. Joey Hizon. The other is HB 4563: "An act granting direct control and supervision of the Intramuros Administration to the Local Government of the City of Manila and designating the Mayor of Manila as Chairman of the Board of Administrators amending for the purposes Presidential decree numbered sixteen hundred and sixteen creating the Intramuros Administration," authored by Rep. Rodolfo C. Bacani.

Aside from Intramuros, Bacani also seeks to give the mayor of Manila control and jurisdiction over Rizal Park now under the National Parks and Development Council, and the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex now under the Philippine Sports Commission. I don't know about Manila's claim to Rizal Park and Rizal Memorial, but Intramuros is a different story.

In both bills the Local Government Code of 1991 is used to justify the "return" of Intramuros from the IA to the City of Manila. In his explanatory note Hizon states, "This bill seeks to give back to the City Government of Manila the control and supervision of the Intramuros *(sic)* and the Intramuros Administration which is under its territorial jurisdiction...the Local Government of the City of Manila is in a better position to know the specific needs of Intramuros leading to its proper development and maintenance." Bacani, in his explanatory note, states, "This bill seeks to once again grant direct control and supervision of the Intramuros Administration to the City of Manila..."

If the congressmen had their staff do thorough research they will find that control over the zoning, design, preservation and development of Intramuros was not taken by the IA from the City of Manila. As a matter of fact, before the establishment of the IA, the National Historical Institute (NHI) was assigned the following functions by Presidential Decree 1277: "Authority to allow alterations or additions and constructions to the walls, moat and esplanade of Intramuros; the inclusion of funds to preserve the walls, moat and esplanade in NHI appropriations; supervision and control over the reconstruction or preservation of the walls, moat and esplanade." Therefore, when the IA was created it took over these functions already exercised by the NHI, not the city government of Manila. How do you return to Manila what was not there in the first place?

On the other hand, it should be emphasized that all building and business permits for Intramuros are issued by the City of Manila, not the IA. Taxes are paid to the City of Manila, not the IA. The City of Manila, through permits and taxation, already exercises jurisdiction over Intramuros. The mayor of Manila is a member of the IA Board of Administrators. Thus, the city government of Manila does exercise jurisdiction over Intramuros except in zoning, design, restoration, preservation and development of which it has no expertise at the moment. The IA has already developed and acquired expertise unique to the agency especially in restoration and preservation of the walls, historic site management, etc. Why burden the City of Manila with a new mandate? Doesn't it have its hands full dealing with the daily tasks of running the city efficiently?

Those pushing for the draft bills should be reminded that the underlying issue here is not mere jurisdiction and control. Intramuros is a national landmark. It belongs to the entire nation, not just Manila. Since it is the policy of the state to preserve cultural heritage, Intramuros should remain with a national government agency like the IA, not the city government of Manila.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

9/11

HIGH BLOOD

Dulcedehlia S. Almoradie

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

SEPT. 11, 2001 was a very nice day at 8:45 in the morning. Breakfast was on my desk on the 25th floor of The Bank of Nova Scotia, One Liberty Plaza, New York, when I heard a noise like a bomb blast. I looked out the window and was surprised to see debris falling down from the World Trade Center just across the street.

A big commotion started in the office and someone said an airplane had hit the WTC. I did not believe this and wondered how that could happen. I started to tremble and cry. An officemate came over and held me, then asked me to grab my pocketbook and led me down the stairs. Other people from the building were doing the same. They were all excited and ran as quickly as they could down the stairs to the lobby. My officemate kept asking them to pass us by as I could not walk very fast. She held and guided me as we went down. I had just recovered from a carpal tunnel syndrome operation and had gone back to work a week earlier. I also had had three angioplasties the year before and had another one in January of 2001.

Pandemonium reigned in the lobby. I sat at a corner coffee shop to call my daughters, Divinea who works midtown, and Dilleana who works at the Financial Center, a building on the opposite side of the WTC across from ours.

Suddenly there was another loud blast when the second plane hit. People then rushed out and I was carried along by the crowd, losing my cell phone in the process. I ended up across the street, still shocked and disoriented. I walked away, not knowing where to go and what to do.

I passed by a public telephone and joined the long line to call my daughter Divinea, to ask if Dilleana was okay and to tell her I was at the corner of Maiden Lane & Nassau. She asked me to stay where I was so Dilleana could come and get me.

I was aware of people screaming, yelling and running wildly especially at the sight of people jumping out of the windows of the WTC where a lot of smoke and fire was coming from.

It was about 30 minutes before Dilleana found me. Meanwhile my son, Joel and another daughter, Desireena plus my husband, Joe, tried to call me and Dilleana on our cell phones. Even my daughter, Dignalea, who lives in the Philippines, and relatives and friends also tried to call us but I had lost my cell phone and Dilleana's was not working properly like all the other cell phones in the area.

We then walked away from the WTC and met an officemate of mine who was coming to work. While we were talking, Dilleana saw ashes falling from the WTC coming toward us because one of the twin towers had collapsed. She tried to pull me away and asked me to run. She did not realize it had collapsed and thought we were being bombed. The ashes overcame us because I could not run as fast as the other people due to my condition. The soot blinded us and it was so dark we could hardly see. It was so thick we could hardly breathe. I covered my nose with my sweater's sleeve. Dilleana held me as we walked away. If she didn't I would have fallen down and people would have trampled me because they were running madly in all directions and would not have probably noticed anyone lying on the ground.

I was so scared that I thought of just cowering in a corner to die. Dilleana, though, had the presence of mind to look around for a place to get into when she saw the ashes coming. With the help of God she found a Citibank ATM enclosure, and knocked and yelled to the people inside to let us in. Other people did the same, and, thankfully those inside let us in.

Thank God, we were finally able to breathe, although our hair and bodies were covered with ashes. Dilleana tried to brush them off, to no avail. After 15 minutes, we tried to get out but were unable to do so because ashes were still raining down from the WTC.

In another 20 minutes we were able to walk out along with the others although ashes were still raining all over us but not as strongly as before. People walked in all directions to get away from the disaster area. Dilleana asked me every now and then if I was okay because she was concerned with my condition and was afraid I might get a heart attack. My adrenalin was pumping so high I just walked with her without heeding where we were going. We ended up in Chinatown, about a mile away and entered a Chinese restaurant.

I complained of my churning stomach so she ordered soup and gave me a small cup to ease it. Afterwards I put my head on the table and fell asleep for about an hour due to exhaustion and excitement. Meanwhile Dilleana saw herself covered with ashes and tried to brush them off again.

After my deep sleep we walked toward midtown for about two miles because subway stations were closed and trains were not working. People along the way offered glasses of water and cookies or sandwiches as they saw people with ashes all over them walking away from the WTC.

A lot of charitable organizations, like the Salvation Army, helped and offered passersby food and the use of facilities when needed. Help was everywhere. It is said that New Yorkers are rude and aloof, but proof that they are not was all around us. You could not have found nicer people anywhere else in the world during those moments, when help was needed.

We walked to 14th Street, went down into the subway and waited for about 30 minutes before an E train arrived. We got home about two o'clock in the afternoon. Dilleana and I were both so exhausted, with all our bones aching, that it was hard to move the next day.

To this day whenever anything is shown on TV about this terrible event, I still tremble and cry. And having to recount the story to relatives and friends is also traumatic for me.

We were not able to go back to work for weeks after the terrorist attack because it was not safe to go into the area, especially inside the buildings. Scotia Bank transferred office to our Wall Street branch and opened other offices away from the crumbled WTC.

When I was asked to go back to work after three weeks, I could not and told them that my terrible experience was too much for me and that I would not be able to get back especially in that area of the twin towers. I e-mailed them and applied for retirement.

I have not gone back to the WTC area since. I still feel very bad when I see things on TV about the attacks. I also want to remember the WTC towering above other buildings in downtown New York. It was my favorite hangout. A good friend and officemate and I went there almost every working day. We would take a quick 15-minute lunch and then take the escalator from our building to the WTC. We would go to shops like Gap, Victoria's Secret, Banana Republic, Duane Reade, etc.

I usually took the E train to work, getting off at the WTC to take the escalator to Scotia Bank. After work I took the same train and got off at the Union Turnpike station to get home.

My family loves New York. We have lived here for a long time and still do to this day. I tell everyone that New York grows on you. The twin towers were a part of New York, so they are a part of us, too.

It is unbelievable that those towers are gone forever. People all over the world will miss them. Tourists used to ride the elevators to the top of the buildings day in and day out to view New York City from the top.

The twin towers will remain in the memory of most people. The tragic event was a horrifying experience to New Yorkers and people everywhere and that horrible action of the terrorists shook the whole world. May God have mercy on their souls and forgive them for the terrible thing that they did and may everyone who suffered in the disaster forgive and forget. Lastly, may all the people who lost their lives there rest in peace.

Dulcedehlia S. Almoradie, 66, used to work as an administrative assistant at the Bank of Nova Scotia in New York City.

Thanks for the Senior Citizens Act

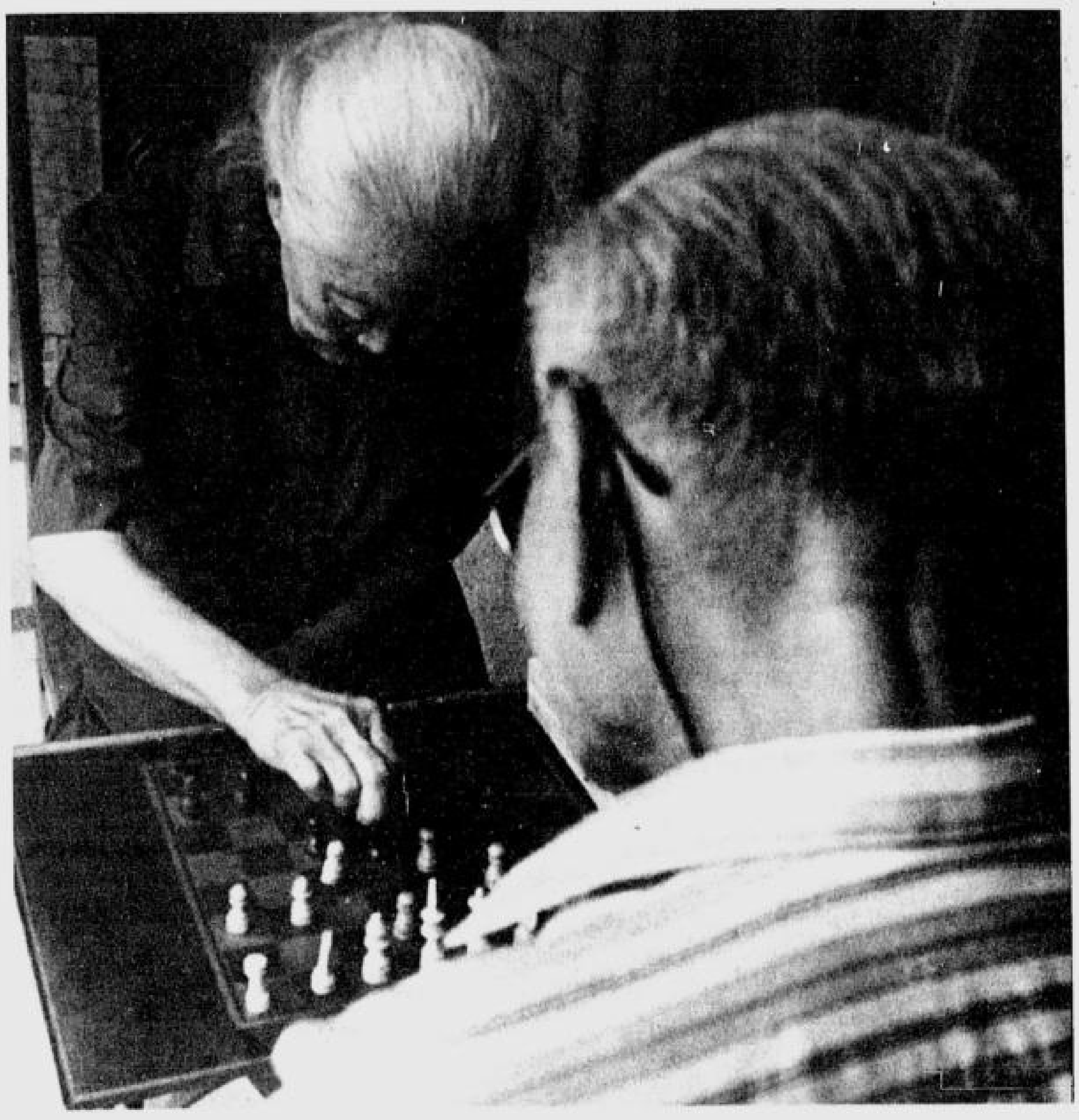
AS the nation starts the full week of celebrating the Senior Citizens Week on Oct. 1, we can only express our gratitude for the passage of the landmark law (Senior Citizens Act). While it is true that some food stores and restaurants, drugstores and transport companies still ignore the law or try to put one over the senior citizens if they can get away with it, still, it can be said that the law has been truly beneficial to us.

We also thank Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, the author and principal sponsor of the Senior Citizens Act, for his new effort to amend the law and expand its coverage. If we can get assistance on our cooking gas and electric bill payments on top of more medical assistance as provided for in the new Angara initiative for senior citizens, we will truly be grateful.

The Angara law on senior citizens gives back something to us. During the prime of our lives, we were productive and we worked hard. We did our share to contribute to the national effort, either in terms of real goods, support services or intellectual contributions.

Even in the winter of our years, we are still doing something to make our nation better.

—AURORA A. YUZON,
9435-B Baticulin St.,
San Antonio Village, Makati City



Greater production for growing population

TINA Arceo-Dumlao's article, "Aging population: New global threat," last July 29 was an eye-opener for many of us, especially population advocates who say that having too many people is a threat to the economy. I think Rina Jimenez-David and the Philippine Legislators' Commission on Population and Development Foundation (PLCPD) should read it very closely.

I agree with Dumlao that the Philippines might have the right idea in bringing a lot of babies into the world because the young, representing more than half of the 70 million population, will eventually pay off the retirement benefits of the generations of workers before them.

Her article showed that fertility rates worldwide has fallen from 5 to 2.7 percent over the past 30 years and as low as 1.6 in developed countries, as reported by the human resource consultancy firm Watson Wyatt Worldwide. (I suppose the contraceptive mentality and abortion have largely contributed to this decline in fertility rates.)

Dumlao's article supported the premise that population growth is a boost to economic progress. This means that newborn babies will no longer be seen as additional mouths to feed but as people who will make available the increasing amounts of resources we need in the future.

Because the falling fertility rate is seen as one of the demographic forces leading to global aging, Watson Wyatt has proposed raising more numerous and more productive children. According to their study, this would spread the elder dependency burden over a longer and more affluent rising generation.

This is contrary to what the PLCPD is trying to do. Lawmakers who are supposed to safeguard and uphold the common good are wasting their neurons, precious time and people's money in proposing policies that will curb the number of future contributors to the Social Security System by promoting contraceptives and other methods of sterilizing people. They could do a lot more good if they focused their efforts and energies on real issues affecting the people and the country, like graft and corruption, political instability and peace and order, instead of clamoring for reproductive rights and health.

The growing population is not the problem. According to the "World Population Monitoring 2001," prepared by the UN Population Division, the world population has grown to 6.1 billion persons. However, while the world population increased close to four times, world real gross domestic product increased 20 to 40 times, allowing the world not only to sustain the population increase, but also to do so at vastly higher standards of living.

But of course people are not solely economic agents. Each life is precious, no matter what the condition may be. We choose to allow a baby to be born not only because we want to have SSS benefits when we retire but because the baby is a human being and has much right to live as you and me.

—GLECY G. GAMBOA,
39-A 17th Avenue,
Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City

Unite and buckle down to work

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' commander in chief, has already made a decision. This is a clear signal for all the men and women of the command to unite once more and buckle down to work.

As professional soldiers and firm believers of the constitutionally enshrined civilian supremacy over the military, we should all respect and support her choice of Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor as the incoming chief of staff.

The President has the country's best interest in mind in choosing Defensor, my classmate at the academy (class '69), for he is an embodiment of a perfect officer and a gentleman. His numerous credentials and achievements during his long stint in the military should prove him very worthy and capable for the top AFP post.

I have already personally congratulated Defensor and assured him of my continued support as vice chief of staff. We go a long way back and we always supported each other since we were both lieutenants in the field and now, with the government's intensified campaign against the terrorists and criminals, it is more imperative that we join hands for the country's sake and our children's future.

I enjoin the whole AFP to fully support the President and our new chief of staff in their vision to strengthen and modernize the military, find peace and a lasting solution to the Mindanao conflict and end the problem with the insurgents.

As a professional organization devoid of politics, let us show our countrymen that their vanguards, the AFP, is sworn and committed to protect their welfare and security and that we will continue and function always as a united command in the performance of our sacred obligation...regardless of who is named the chief of staff.

—LT. GEN. GREGORIO M. CAMILING JR., vice chief of staff,
Armed Forces of the Philippines,
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City

Slot machines are untamperable

BERNARDO Niguidula wrote an interesting letter about the existence of slot machines in the Sept. 2 issue of the INQUIRER.

We respect Niguidula's opinion, coming as it is from an expert engineer. Sadly, however, his observation about slot machines being easily adjusted to favor the house is no longer applicable. We have come a long way from the 1960s. Today's slot machines use more sophisticated, state-of-the-art technology. They have high-tech electronically controlled systems which sound the alert for, and prohibit, any form of tampering.

The slot machines imported by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. come from countries like the United States, Australia, Germany, Spain and Japan. These countries impose the strictest licensing and regulatory procedures. Aside from rigid in-house quality control, the machines are tested by independent gaming laboratories before they are allowed to be sold in the market.

We would like to believe that the huge popularity of slot machines among a wide cross-section of the adult population results from the large percentage payouts favoring the player. Just to illustrate this point: a total of 32 individuals have struck it rich with the P5-million jackpot since we introduced it in Casino Filipino four years ago; 51 other players have won the P1-million jackpot. The term "one-armed bandit" is therefore an unfair appellation. Many people play slots not only out of sheer enjoyment but also because it gives them the best chances of winning.

—EDWARD F. KING,
officer in charge,
public relations and advertising,
Philippine Amusement
and Gaming Corp.,
1330 Roxas Blvd.,
Ermita, Manila

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Alarmed over DOH budget cut

RINA Jimenez-David had an excellent Sept. 4 column, "Also a population, story" about thousands coming into the Philippines from Malaysia with no resettlement plans by the government. That this could lead to greater poverty and crime is the credible claim. What is not claimed is that it is certain to lead to more HIV-AIDS cases as there are already more people. So a bigger health budget is needed.

But on the same day as David's column, the Department of Health's budget section informed me that the money supply will be decreased by a massive 15 percent as the population increases. In any case, the proposed measly P12 million for AIDS control means it is out of control, as a quarter of a million dollars for 80 million people means that less than one cent per person is allocated to save their lives. This is a recipe for mass suicide, which is against religious beliefs, as millions are spent on airports that cater to decreasing big spenders as they are frightened of the crime that is already here and the AIDS explosion which the DOH doctors are setting a fuse to. Someone should start a medical malpractice action before more graves are dug.

—EARL K. WILKINSON, Makati City

The Jolo I knew

ANOTHER slice of "Memories of Jolo" flashes on the screen of my life's present. In this tiny town, all roads led to the church, school, market, plaza or cemetery. The automobile did not play a vital role on the street scene, then. Two sturdy legs in clogs, slippers, shoes, whichever were appropriate for the occasion—pray, learn, buy or play were better.

Martires was one road leading away from the town proper. Long before World War II it was a beautiful sight to behold. This macadamized road that led to the cemetery, airport and onward to Taglibi was a beautiful boulevard. A kilometer's stretch of this road had tall ancient acacia trees standing on both sides with branches intertwining high above and casting intricate designs upon the ground below. Their pink and yellow pon-pon flowers gave the boulevard a festive air as a gentle breeze sent the leaves and flowers cascading down on the passersby. This bit of paradise was obliterated when the Japanese cut them down and left nothing but stumps. I wept silently. I had walked down this fairytale lane to and from school with Zane Grey's cowboy novel all through my high school days.

Every Monday afternoon groups trod along Martires to visit the graves of their loved ones. They had brooms, candles and flowers. The brooms kept the area spic and span, candles and flowers gave the surroundings an aura of being a holy resting retreat.

If Monday afternoons were quiet for Christians, Friday afternoons were festive for our Muslim brothers. Men, women and children from nearby villages, in their colorful attire gathered in this rarely used airport for their weekend sport—carabao fighting. Entertainment time.

Men wore their tight-fitting jackets and loose pants. Their colorful handwoven half-a-yard-square kerchiefs hung loosely on their shoulders or tied around their heads. The *barong* (*balisong*) and *mamaan* (chewing box) containing all the stuff for chewing were the accessories ever present. The women were colorfully dressed, too, in long-sleeved loose blouses, the front opening fastened with pearl-pin fasteners, cheerful loose silk pants and a colorful malong hanging diagonally down their shoulders. The children were dressed as colorfully as their parents.

The excitement began when the carabaos, the celebrities of the moment, were led into the arena. They were sturdy, well-groomed and colorfully adorned. Around their necks were colorful necklaces and amulets to ensure victory. Their horns were sharpened to a shine and were meant to fatally gore. Their colorfully beribboned tails swung like pendulums swatting away the pesky flies. The clash began when the shouts grew louder. The butting ended when the vanquished thundered down the road, the victor following and both owners running after them.

Once in an alarming while, the sleepy town would be jarred from its lethargy. The cry "*juramentado*" electrified the air. Christians banged their windows and doors shut. A kris-swinging "*juramentado*" was out to get a Christian to gain heaven. Caught face to face with him in the middle of the street, one had to be nimble of feet to run, jump and hurdle whatever was in the way as he struggled to keep distance between him and the rampaging "*juramentado*."

Life must go on. Friendships must be maintained. The present seems bleak.

—ROSARIO R. LIBERATO,
21 Molave St., M. Romeo Village,
Sta. Lucia, Pasig City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Moment of silence for a year of pain

NEW YORK—A moment of silence will mark a year of pain across the United States today, as Americans recall the horror of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and consider the prospect of a possible war with Iraq.

Silence will shroud New York City at the precise moment when the first of two hijacked passenger planes slammed into the World Trade Center a year ago. The peal of church bells will echo across New York to mark the twin towers' collapse.

The focus of official mourning will be the devastated "Ground Zero" site, but the mood of solemn remembrance will ripple out across the country and beyond in recognition of an event that shook the world.

Candlelight ceremonies, prayers, processions and concerts in virtually all US cities will pay homage to the 3,000 people who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania.

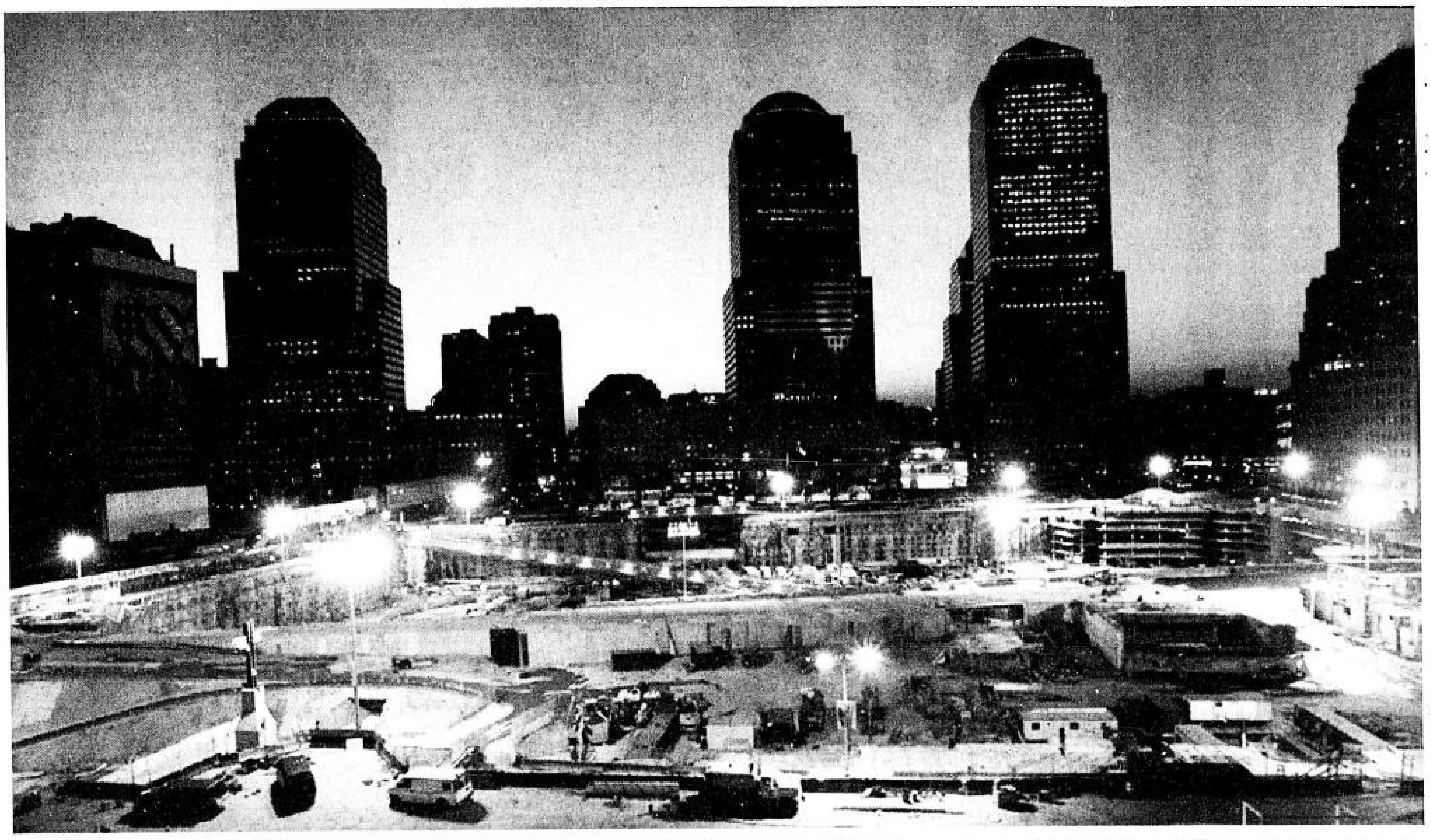
Even as Americans look back, the US government will be looking forward as it pushes ever harder its case for military action against Iraq—the next potential target in the "war on terrorism." Amid internal opposition from Congress as well as the international community, President George W. Bush's top national security officials have put their collective muscle behind the message that the United States was determined to act against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

"There shouldn't be any doubt in anybody's mind that this president is absolutely bound and determined to deal with this threat and to do whatever is necessary to make certain that we do so," Vice President Dick Cheney said on the NBC television news program "Meet the Press."

"The problem has to be dealt with one way or another," Cheney said, citing the threat posed by Iraq's alleged nuclear, biological and chemical weapons program.

"Imagine a Sept. 11 with weapons of mass destruction," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld added in his own television appearance.

Even the most cautious of Bush's advisers, Secretary of State Colin Powell, spoke of a "sound legal argument" for taking action against Iraq without the United Nations' blessing. *AFP*



GROUND Zero, site of the World Trade Center attacks in New York, as it appears during the evening Sept. 9. US President George Bush will lead the United States in ceremonies on Sept. 11 commemorating the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City.

AFP

Voice said to be Bin Laden's names leaders of Sept. 11 hijackers in Al-Jazeera videotape

CAIRO—The Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera aired excerpts Monday from a videotape in which a voice said to be Osama bin Laden's is heard naming the leaders of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers.

Though the identity of the speaker could not immediately be confirmed, his voice sounded similar to that of the Saudi-born dissident as heard in previous tapes aired by Al-Jazeera over the past year and in which he appeared. The United States says Bin Laden was the mastermind of the attacks in which some 3,000 people died.

Bin Laden, whose whereabouts are unknown, did not appear on the excerpts shown Monday. The full tape would be shown Thursday, according to the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera. It did not say whether he would appear in the full tape.

Al-Jazeera said the tape was filmed in the eastern Afghan town of Kandahar, but didn't say when the male voice attributed to bin Laden was recorded or how it obtained the tape.

Bin Laden has not been heard from since shortly after the US-led bombing campaign began in Afghanistan last October.

"As we talk about the conquests of Washington and New York we talk about those men who changed the course of history and cleaned the records of the nation of the dirt of the treasonous rulers and their followers," the male voice says in Arabic as the tape showed head shots of the 19 hijackers.

The 19 hijackers were "great men who deepened the roots of faith in the hearts of the faithful and reaffirmed allegiance to God and torpedoed the schemes of the crusaders and their stooges, the rulers of the region," the voice said somberly.

Men singing Muslim hymns could be heard in the background.

The speaker named four men—Mohamed Atta, Marwan Al-Shehhi, Hani Hanjour and Ziad Jarrah—as the leaders of the Sept. 11 attacks, prayed for their souls and praised them.

The tape showed four youngmen Al-Jazeera's announcer said were among the hijackers during "technical training" in Afghanistan a few months before the Sept. 11 attacks. They appeared to be looking at detailed maps, one of them of the Washington D.C. area, and manuals of cockpit gadgetry.

At least one computer and several books in English could be seen sitting on desks and a hand was shown pointing at the site of the Pentagon on one map. The men wore typical south Asian clothes—loose shirts and baggy plants. *AP*

WTC scrap stirs dreams in India city

MANDI GOBINDGARH, India—On the far edge of town, where the dingy concrete factories suddenly give way to cornfields, thick slabs of twisted metal are piled in a muddy yard.

Here, they say in Mandi Gobindgarh, is where the World Trade Center ended up: 1,000 tons of wreckage rusting under a gray sky in Chandra Mittal's scrapyard.

Thousands more tons are being melted down in foundries across this noisy Indian city of 60,000 people. It's a 16,000-ton fraction of World Trade Center steel that has been scattered to recyclers around the world.

They're chasing the American dream in Mandi Gobindgarh, dragging themselves into the middle class in a nation where one-third of the population remains in poverty. And they're doing it—or at least they think they are—with parts of the World Trade Center.

"My wife told me not to purchase this scrap because it might mean bad luck. But I've never seen such metal," he said, sounding like a gourmand discussing a rare wine. "This is not good scrap. This is not very good scrap. This is very very good scrap."

In fact, the Trade Center steel was some of the heaviest, thickest steel ever used in construction.

In that steel is where Mittal sees his profits.

"If they'd kept it, every generation could see the scrap and imagine what was once there," he said. *AP*

White House: Opposition to attack on Iraq softening

WASHINGTON—The White House said international opposition to military action against Iraq—at least as a last resort—is softening as more world leaders have said Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to snub UN weapons inspectors.

Officials from France, Spain, Denmark and the Netherlands denounced Saddam in exceptionally blunt terms Monday, and some allies said military action cannot be ruled out if Bush works through the United Nations to confront Saddam.

The comments, a subtle but potentially significant shift in tone among wary US allies, came as senior administration officials said Bush planned to urge the UN on Thursday to demand that Saddam open his weapons sites to unfettered inspections or face punitive action.

In his address Thursday to the UN General Assembly, Bush is not expected to set a deadline nor spell out the consequences—leaving the finer points to US and UN diplomats who may produce a formal resolution—but his address will make it clear that military action will be taken if Iraq doesn't comply, officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush is convinced Saddam will provoke military action.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who has repeatedly stated his opposition to a war with Iraq, on Monday stressed the importance of bringing the critical issue before the Security Council.

"It is important to stress that the council, which has been seized with this Iraqi issue for so long, should have something to say," he said. "I think it is appropriate that the council pronounces itself on the issue."

Russia and China—both veto-wielding members of the council with close ties to Iraq—oppose any military action.

Bush's case was bolstered by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London group that issued a report saying Iraq could build a nuclear weapon in a few months if it obtained radioactive material. It warned, too, of Saddam's powerful arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri called such claims "false pretexts, false accusations" designed to turn the world against Iraq.

White House aides said that while few allies are fully behind Bush, the comments of world leaders in recent days suggest the debate has shifted from a question of whether the United States should confront Saddam to a matter of how it should be done.

UN inspectors trying to determine whether Iraq possesses biological, chemical or nuclear weapons left Iraq in 1998 and have been barred from returning despite several UN resolutions. Bush intends to tells world leaders the relevancy of the UN is at stake as he seeks to disarm Saddam.

"It does appear that a movement is budding to put some force to previous UN resolutions," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

"It's clear that both the Congress and the UN are returning to an issue that had not gotten sufficient attention in recent years, and now some muscle looks like it's being put at least rhetorically into the deliberations of the world's leaders," he said.

Fleischer did not offer an examples, but Bush advisers privately said the president was pleasantly surprised by a proposal from French President Jacques Chirac.

Chirac suggested a three-week deadline to allow the return of UN weapons inspectors. If refused, a second resolution to use military force would have to be passed.

Bush appreciated the talk of a quick deadline, one adviser said. *AP*

Only 66 of 506 asylum seekers in Nauru 'genuine'

SYDNEY—Only 66 of the 506 asylum seekers Australia sent to the South Pacific island state of Nauru to have their claims processed have been deemed to be refugees, immigration officials said Tuesday.

The remainder of the group of boat people who refused authority to land on the Australian mainland are now expected to be returned to their countries of origin, which in most cases is Afghanistan.

The asylum seekers, who have been informed of the outcome of a review of their claims for refugee status, were dealt with under two different categories, one Australian and the other the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Of the Australian caseload, 30 asylum seekers were found at review to be refugees and 264 were found not to be refugees," a department spokesperson said in a statement.

"Only 36 asylum seekers in the UNHCR caseload were found to be refugees and 176 were found not to be refugees." The review process began in July on Nauru and on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. *AFP*

100 feared dead as India train jumps tracks

PATNA, India—At least 100 people were feared dead and nearly 100 injured when an express train en route from Calcutta to New Delhi jumped the tracks and plunged into a river, officials said Tuesday.

Bandaru Dattatreya, the junior minister for railroads, said 13 cars of the Rajdhani Express went off the tracks as the train was crossing a river bridge near the town of Rafiganj, some 100 km south of Patna, capital of the eastern Bihar state.

Dattatreya said he did not have a confirmed count for the dead, but "the casualty figure is very high."

"Hundred people are feared dead," he said.

A state telecommunications officer reached at the scene by satellite phone told The Associated Press that rescue officials had so far recovered 28 bodies and many more were still trapped in one of the derailed cars that fell into the river.

One train car fell into the water and two other cars were still dangling from the bridge, said the officer, R.K. Singh said. Army soldiers joined police and railroad officials in the rescue operation.

Authorities said they were not ruling out sabotage, because it appeared that the train tracks on the bridge had been tampered with.

"Our preliminary reports say that this is sabotage," Dattatreya said, adding that they showed that some iron plates that join the train tracks—called the "fish plates"—were found removed at the scene.

"Clearly some forces are behind it," Dattatreya said. "All our security forces have been requisitioned to the site. Nearly 100 injured people have been removed from the place." *AP*

Murder case throws spotlight on lawyer-client sex

SEATTLE—Defense attorney Theresa Olson, a fiery advocate who sometimes cries openly when she loses a case, was visiting a murder-defendant client behind bars when jail guards looking through a window reported seeing them having sex.

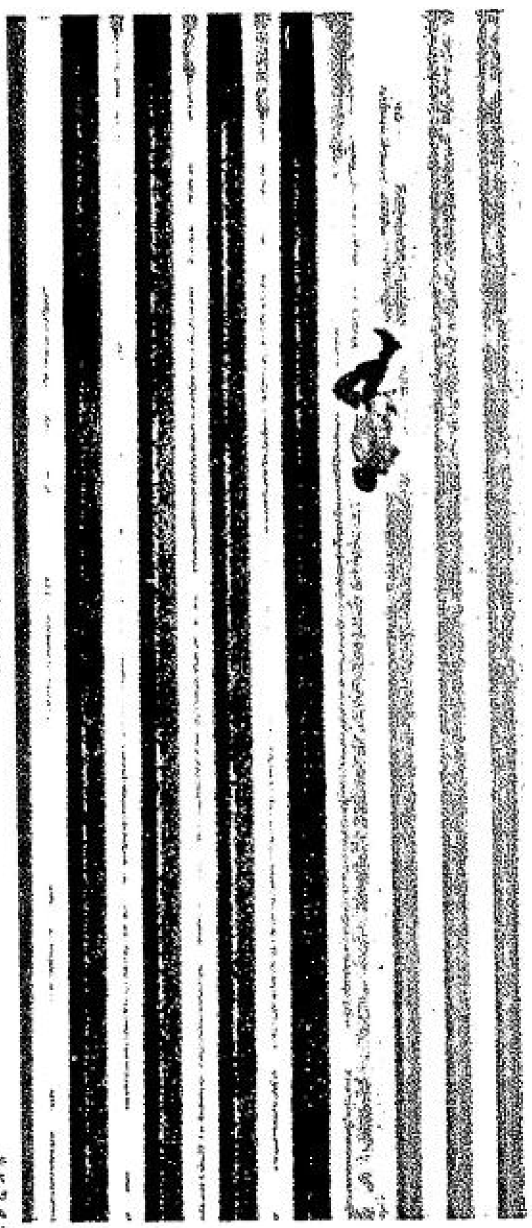
Olson was thrown off the case by the judge.

The episode could delay an already long-postponed murder trial. It has also thrown a spotlight on conduct that only recently was officially recognized by the American Bar Association as an ethical breach.

The alleged affair has derailed Olson's otherwise distinguished career and frustrated those who want to see Sebastian Burns and Atif Rafay stand trial in the 1994 clubbing deaths of Rafay's family. The trial was delayed for nearly six years while Burns and Rafay fought extradition from Canada.

"What an amazing, sad, pathetic case," said Lis Wiehl, a University of Washington law professor. *AP*

9/11/2001 defines New York City



NO WAY to go: Headlong plunge from the north tower of New York's World Trade Center. AP

EVEN the bold and the brave can't rein in the tears at the funeral service on Sept. 15, 2001 for the New York Fire Department chaplain, Rev. Mychal Judge. Firefighter Tony James (at left) salutes the priest who was killed while giving the last rites to a fireman. (At right) Sept. 14, 2001: Fireman yells for 10 more able bodies to rescue survivors from the rubble of the collapsed towers. GETTY IMAGES

FIREMEN with great care help one of their own. AP

WEARY New York City cop is covered with the debris from the tragedy. AFP

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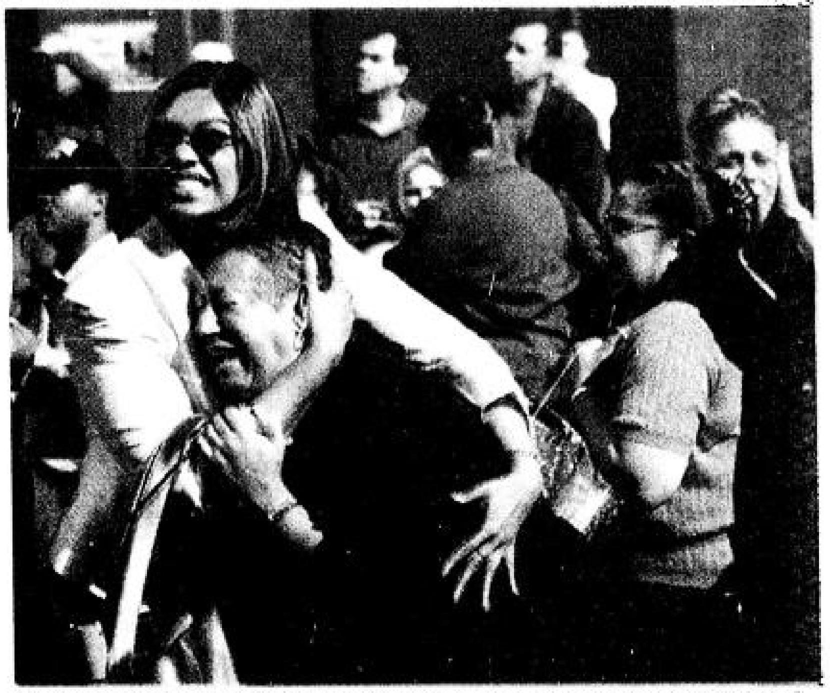
HONORING the memory of her mother, officer Moira Smith of the New York City police, Patricia Mary Smith, 9 (below left), attends a service for the 23 police officers killed in the line of duty on 9/11/2002.

"MIRACLE BABY" Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna, now 2, had a life-saving operation on the day Patricia's father died. Her surgery was sponsored by New York policemen and firemen. GETTY IMAGES



HORROR, fear, anguish, shock grip witnesses as they watch 181,000 tons of steel collapse before their eyes. AP

WOUNDED woman is helped by emergency workers. AP

SMART casual wardrobe for a lady now caked in soot and dust. AFP

ALL dressed up to do business as usual on a most unusual day. REUTERS

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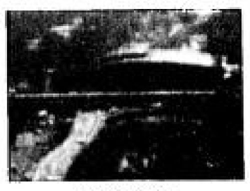
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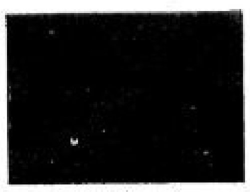
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3 suspected Pentagon men killed in clash

BANGA, South Cotabato—Three suspected members of the kidnap gang Pentagon were killed while eight government troops were wounded in what military officers said was a running gunbattle that started Saturday.

The incident started two days after about 20 New People's Army rebels disarmed this town's mayor and his escorts in another barangay here.

Mayor Isidro Janita said he and his escorts have just attended the induction of new *purok* (sub-village) officers in Sitio Lam-asam of Barangay El Nonok on Thursday when the guerrillas pounced on his group.

"We only need the guns," the mayor quoted one of the guerrillas as saying. Taken from the mayor and his escorts were five .45 and .38 caliber pistols, an M16 and an Ingram.

"The safety of my people is my priority," Janita explained when asked why he and his bodyguards did not resist.

But Lt. Col. Eduardo Andes, chief of the 27th Infantry Battalion, who is supervising the operations in a temporary command post some seven kilometers from this town's poblacion, told the INQUIRER that the ongoing operation was not against the NPA rebels.

He, however, refused to identify the group which the armed men belong to. Local radio reports, quoting several residents, claimed that they could be members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group.

Those killed were left at the encounter site, a part of the Roxas Range bordering Banga and Tupi towns and Koronadal City. Those wounded were airlifted by two helicopter gunships on Saturday and yesterday.

The NPA's recent disarming of the mayor and his bodyguards was "an isolated case," Andes said.

The ongoing operation against the suspected Pentagon gang members will continue "for as long as there is resistance from them," he said.

About 1,000 residents of Barangays Takilay, Kabuling and Lamolna reportedly fled their homes and are now seeking shelter in public schools. *Joey Lozano with a report from Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Anti-rabies drive launched

PILI, Camarines Sur—The Department of Agriculture launched on Saturday the national anti-rabies campaign here, which aims to raise awareness on the deadly infection and its prevention.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said he launched the campaign here following an invitation from Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte whose province is on top of the list of rabies incidence in Bicol.

Bicol is among the top five regions with the highest incidence of rabies, he said.

Jose Molina, DA chief veterinary officer, said the department has donated to Bicol one million dosages of anti-rabies vaccines worth P10 million.

Vaccination costs P10 per dog while curing a rabies-infected patient would cost P50,000. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

VILLAGES in Taglibi, Patikul, Sulu are under the grip of military operations that aim to crush the Abu Sayyaf. DENNIS SABANGAN

Military defies court order to free 4 rebs

CEBU CITY—The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) has expressed alarm over the defiance of the military to obey a court order, directing it to release four men alleged to be members of the New People's Army (NPA).

"This is a fair warning. The military doesn't believe in civilian rule," said lawyer Rex Fernandez, spokesperson of Task Force Against Militarization.

Fernandez appealed to Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, 78th Infantry Battalion commander, to obey the court and release Nestor Lumbab, 20, who is believed to be in the custody of the 78th IB based in Sogod town, about 60 kilometers north of this city.

He said Judge Sylva Paderanga of the Regional Trial Court based in Danao City, Cebu had ordered the 78th IB to release Lumbab and three others to the court, and not to send them home.

Judge Paderanga had ordered Sumagaysay to explain in 10 days why he should not be cited for contempt for failure to present the four suspects before the court.

Sumagaysay earlier said he had no reason to release the suspects because it was their decision to stay inside the camp.

Lumbab, Edgar Duran, 42; Noe Molde, 43; and Elbin Colinares, 40; were arrested separately last month and brought'to the 78th IB camp on suspicion that they were NPA members.

On Saturday, members of Bayan-Cebu, Kilusang Mayo Uno and Karapatan accompanied Rogelio Roble, RTC-Danao sheriff, to the 78th IB camp in Sogod to implement the court order.

But to their dismay, they were barred from entering the camp. Cpl. Udelyber Baron, the camp guard, received the order.

The militant groups only learned later that shortly before they arrived, Duran, Molde and Colinares had already gone home in Catmon town, Cebu after they executed an affidavit that their stay at the camp was voluntary.

Fernandez said Maj. Acelo Medija, 78th IB deputy commander, explained that the three wanted to go home because they missed their families.

Lumbab, however, has remained in military custody. Fernandez said Medija told them Lumbab could not be released because he was still being interrogated.

Fernandez said the military committed a "blatant violation" of the Constitution by not respecting the person's right to be assisted by a lawyer.

Rogelia Lumbab demanded for her son's freedom. Lumbab told the INQUIRER on Saturday that he was not tortured by the military. He admitted he had been with the NPA for a month after he was asked to join them in exchange for better livelihood.

The 20-year-old rebel is a former woodcraft worker. He said he wanted to go home to his mother, but the military asked him to stay in the camp for his security. *Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DENR to probe 2 Quezon power plants

LUCENA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has agreed to conduct a joint sampling and laboratory testing with Greenpeace at the periphery of the Mauban coal-fired power plant in Quezon.

"We are ready to undertake a joint probe with the Greenpeace people," Ernesto Malimban, DENR director for Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Aurora-Quezon) area, told members of the Quezon provincial council during the resumption of the investigation on the safety of the coal-fired power plants in Pagbilao and Mauban.

Malimban said the probe will take several days of continuous stay in the laboratory to achieve a result that is beyond suspicion.

Quezon Vice-Governor Jovito Talabong said the provincial government will shoulder the cost of the investigation.

The DENR is the lead government entity in the multi-sectoral monitoring team tasked to conduct regular evaluations on the safety of the Mauban plant's operation.

It was agreed that the test samples would include fly ash.

Greenpeace, an international environmentalist group, revealed last month that the fly ash taken from the Mauban plant, contained an alarming level of mercury.

Malimban admitted to the provincial council the presence of heavy metals in the coal used by the two coal-fired power plants in Quezon, but said that based on the DENR's comprehensive laboratory test on air and water samples at the plant's periphery, the heavy metal content is still tolerable based on the government standard.

He said the "tolerable level" is below 0.00259 microgram per liter.

"The moment it registers above the prescribed level, we would automatically recommend the plant's closure," he said.

Beth Mossman, chair of the Crusade for Sustainable Environment, lambasted the lack of concern of the provincial council during the past seven years that they have complained against the plant's operation in Mauban.

Talabong urged her to join the multi-sectoral monitoring team and conduct her opposition against the plant from within, but Mossman declined the invitation, saying she could not be a part of the monitoring team because she does not believe in the integrity of the group.

"I'm also against coal as fuel." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Encephalitic Zambo kid survives 2 operations

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Aside from being "a sociable and a hyper-active baby" as local physicians here had previously believed, four-month old Marian Tabiano has also been found to be a "real fighter."

Baby Marian, who had suffered from a life-threatening abnormal tissue growth in her head, has survived two surgical procedures funded by donations triggered by an INQUIRER story about her case.

Dr. Jodel Isagani delos Santos, said Marian went through two operations at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City last week, which were aimed at removing the abnormal tissue growth, known as *meningo encephalocoele*.

"She's a real fighter and survivor and we saw that when she went under the knife from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.," Dr. delos Santos said.

He said the first procedure was to remove the soft flesh on her nape and the second was "to remove the accumulated water on the outer lining within the soft tissues."

Dr. Anton Lim, liaison office of the Tzu Chi Foundation here, told the INQUIRER that prior to the operations, Marian underwent a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Then, she was subjected to a series of laboratory tests and x-ray clearance.

Only after these tests had been taken that a team of physicians led by delos Santos decided that Marian could be operated on.

On Sept. 2, delos Santos declared that Marian would be put under surgery.

After the two operations, Marian was declared out of danger but doctors would have to monitor her condition for a month or two to fully determine if her sight, smell, hearing, brain and psychomotor were not affected.

Until such time, she has to stay in Cebu.

Baby Marian's case has alarmed physicians here.

Lim said because of the abnormal growth that could result to her death, the Tzu Chi Foundation, a group of doctors doing charity work, decided to help the child even with the lack of financial support.

"We really have to send her to a hospital that can operate on her because the meningo case should be immediately removed. If it stays on her, it will become bigger and would cause serious complications in the future," Dr. Rufino Cuevas said.

Cuevas, a Tzu Chi volunteer, who specializes in cases of hydrocephalus, was the first physician who examined Marian.

But the need to operate on Marian was hampered by her parent's inability to produce more than P100,000 for the operation alone. Maribel Tabiano, her mother, is jobless and her father Ryan is a tricycle driver. The Tzu Chi then appealed for donations.

"We were assisted by Henry Co, one of our contacts and a Tzu Chi member in Cebu City. He recommended that Marian be sent to the Vicente Sotto Hospital in Cebu," Lim said.

When the INQUIRER ran a story on Marian's case, more donations came in that Lim had to open a bank account under her name.

As of Sept. 1, the fund for Marian had totaled P85,220. These consisted of donations from all over the country, including from a security guard and a cigarette vendor who gave P10 each.

Other donors included Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, the Region 9 Police Director, Marivic Tacandong, Jay Liu, Lourdes Urrutia, Vilma Bacud, EJ Rosario, Nestor del Rio and a Ms Mercy.

George and Peter's Shipping Lines, which serves Zamboanga and Cebu, gave P14,220 in cash plus round trip tickets for the Tabiano family's travel to Cebu.

"We regularly conducted prayers, not to ask for more financial help but to make the surgery and Marian's trip smooth and successful, we were glad because everything for Marian was so easy," Lim said.

For those who provided help, the Tabiano family said all they could extend was their heartfelt gratitude.

"Thank you very much for your help. We know we would not be able to repay you," Maribel said.

ROUNDUP

Money shop robbed

STA. ROSA, Laguna—An unidentified armed man held up a money changing shop at Barangay Balibago in this town last Tuesday. Police identified the owner of Exquisite Money Changer as Johnny Gabayan. Shop manager Jannette Linga said the suspect pretended to be a client and suddenly poked his gun on her. The suspect reportedly divested the shop of P77,550 in cash, HK$700, and others. After getting all the currencies, the suspect walked out casually until he reached the nearby Petron Gas Station and boarded an Alfa Highlander Wagon with plate no. WNT-178. He fled towards the South Expressway. Police said the unidentified suspect was still at large.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 soldiers slain

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Two soldiers were shot dead by armed men who held up the passenger jeepney they were riding in Balbalan, Kalinga on Wednesday, reports here said. Police identified the fatalities as Pfc. Rolex Labuguen and Johnny Ballesteros, both of the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion operating in Kalinga. Reports said the jeepney was bound for Tabuk, Kalinga when 10 armed men, led by one Joseph Mabila, flagged down the vehicle and robbed the passengers. The robbers recognized Labuguen and Ballesteros, who were in civilian clothes, and shot them. Labuguen and Ballesteros were on their way to the battalion headquarters to secure papers for their promotion, it was learned.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2,000 jobs in Subic

OLONGAPO CITY—Locators at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone offered 2,000 jobs to more than 5,000 jobseekers as part of the freeport's 10th anniversary celebration. Thirty-six local and foreign investors, mostly engaged in manufacturing and tourism, took part in the 5th job fair conducted by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the freeport's workforce has reached 55,000 workers, exceeding the peak level of 30,000 when the Americans operated the base.
Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tax publicity plan

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves has called on the government to publish tax payments of business firms and individuals, to increase its tax collection efficiency. The rich and famous here were opposed to the publication of tax collection payments lest they become target of kidnappers. "They are not afraid of kidnappers while staying in multimillion-homes, having several cars, being members of exclusive clubs and have children enrolled in exclusive schools. Their fear of being embarrassed for short tax payment is paramount," Teves quipped. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Peace disagreement

BACOLOD CITY—The Bacolod Diocese appears to be divided over the peace agreement signed between the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas. Some priests in the diocese want an outright rejection of the original peace pact while Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra and the multi-sectoral group Peace Advocates of Negros are pushing for a supplemental agreement to "correct" the "ambiguous and contentious" provisions in the peace agreement. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Prosecutor's affair

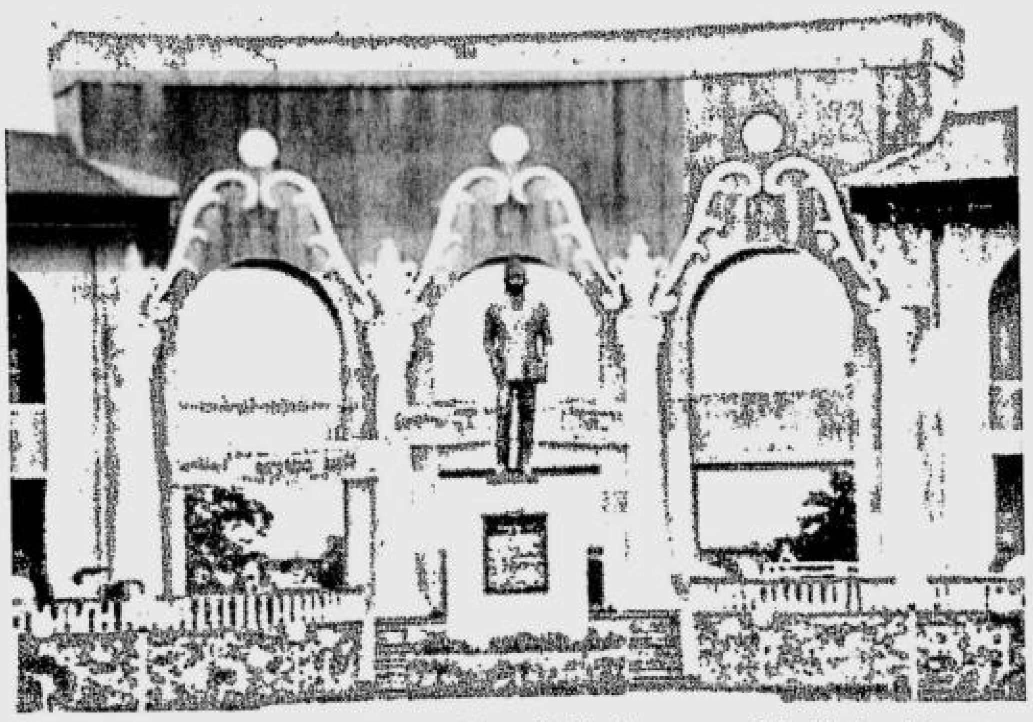
CEBU CITY—The wife of a businessman has filed a complaint of immorality and grave misconduct against an assistant city prosecutor for allegedly carrying an affair with her husband. Cherry Augusto, 24, lodged the case against Assistant Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas. She claimed that she caught Castro and her husband Zandro inside a motel room in Mandaue City at about 1 a.m. of Aug. 11. Castro, whose annulment case with her husband was still pending review by the Supreme Court, had denied she had an affair with Augusto, adding that she was not in Cebu on Aug. 11. She planned to sue Cherry with libel and demand P5 million in damages.
Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Retirement age

DUMAGUETE CITY—Thirty-five years of service in the Silliman University or having reached 65 years of age are grounds for compulsory retirement. The Court of Appeals has affirmed a decision of the Cebu-based National Labor Relations Commission Fourth Division, which earlier upheld the retirement plan rules and regulations of SU. In a decision dated July 11, 2002, the NLRC Fourth Division dismissed the petition for certiorari filed by Alpha Jaculbe, who had served as nurse at the Silliman University Medical Center, was retired on Nov. 18, 1993 by the university after 35 years of service.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Negros peace talks

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz has called on the Communist Party of the Philippines for a local peace talk to prevent further bloodshed in Negros Oriental in the wake of the ambush-slay of Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, Vallerhermosa police chief, and his driver, SPO3 Cipriano Saludes, in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan, on Aug. 27. SPO1 Cielo Cupta was wounded in the ambush.
Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau



ONE of the proposed Marcos burial sites is found inside the campus of the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte. CRISTINA ARZADON

Marcos burial: Libingan or Batac?

By Cristina Arzadon
Batac, Ilocos Norte

WHAT could be the best enduring reminder of Ferdinand Marcos than the late strongman himself?

Alternately labeled a crook and a tyrant even after his death, Marcos continues to be thrust into the public eye. His remains still lie unburied in his home province of Ilocos Norte 13 years after he died in Hawaii.

Marcos' death in 1989 set the stage for a debate on whether Filipinos ought to consider him a hero despite widespread belief of corruption, plunder, torture and curtailment of civil liberties under martial law.

On Marcos' 85th birthday today, the debate has shifted from the mantle of hero-or-crook to whether efforts of burying Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery) should be pursued or not.

The subject of debate elicited striking response from Ilocanos, such as "anywhere but Manila" to "wherever Imelda wants."

Several college students in Ilocos Norte want to start a signature campaign to convince the Marcos family to bury Marcos in Ilocos Norte.

"Let's face it, nobody in Manila cares about Marcos. Why should we insist on burying him there?" says a junior college student of a private university in Laoag City.

The late Arturo Palalay, who was among the local journalists jailed during martial law, once said, "The level of greatness of Ferdinand Marcos would be more significant right in his own territory."

Former first lady Imelda Marcos said, however, in a recent television interview that she was not giving up hope of burying her husband at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Give him what is due (him). He deserves a burial befitting a president, a soldier and a holder of a medal of valor," Mrs. Marcos said.

Batac grave sites

The widow, nonetheless, has started looking around for grave sites and has chosen Batac for the purpose. Because Batac is home to Ilocano revolutionaries like Fr. Gregorio Aglipay and Gen. Artemio Ricarte, residents have, in fact, hinted of putting up a "Libingan ng mga Bayaning Ilocano," in an apparent name-play to the heroes cemetery.

Whether the final burial is set in Manila or in his home province, expect Mrs. Marcos to pull off something nothing less than a pomp funeral similar to when Marcos' remains were flown from Hawaii to be buried temporarily at the Marcos ancestral homes in 1993.

Already, Mrs. Marcos is putting together perhaps the grandest burial befitting a great leader and a decorated soldier. She is said to be setting her sights on a park-and-garden-type grave site complete with a museum, a library and a memorial in what would be known as the "Maharlika" on a parcel of land in Batac.

"Mrs. Marcos has narrowed down the choices to three areas. These are all in Batac," said Lito Gorospe, the family's spokesperson, without naming which is likely to be the burial site.

One of the proposed sites includes a property owned by the Mariano Marcos State University. The state-run school was named after Marcos' father.

Relaxing and simple Batanes

By Dr. Corazon Ruiz
Contributor

FROM the chartered eight-seater plane, all at once I saw the lovely string of green islands, 10 of them, shining and glimmering in the sun. Then I had a first glimpse of Batanes' winding roads around the mountains like those in Monaco minus the grand villas.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

The plane hovered above Batan Island. The Basco Airport is a steep descent to the 1,200-meter, single-approach-single take-off runway—a narrow strip wedged between the hills on one end and Mt. Iraya on the other.

Getting off the plane, I felt the cool balmy air, wondering if this was still Philippine territory. The airport has always a festive air; it has become the converging place where the Ivatans (Batanes natives) welcome the islands' visitors.

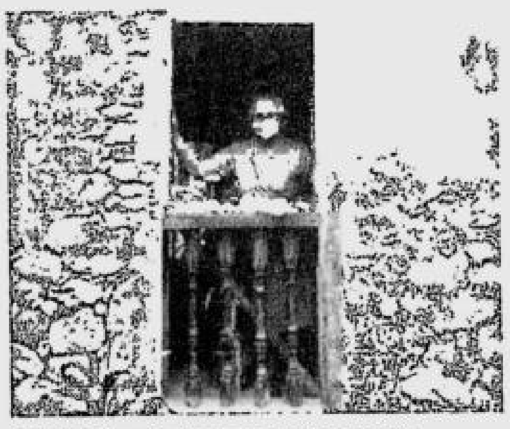
The formations and steep cliffs of Batanes remind one of the Scottish moors, while the big waves churning at the base of sea cliffs bring memories of Hawaii's wild and wonderful coasts.

Every town down to the smallest barangay in Batanes has its own place of worship. Four major churches, 17th-century vintage, are found in Basco, Ivana, Sabtang and Mahatao. The innate spirituality of the Ivatans is manifested in making the church the center of their lives. The everyday words of greetings with "Dios (God)" are always present.

Only in Batanes, and only in the town of Ivana, one can experience the unusual "Honesty Cafe." Customers can serve themselves with food and drinks and leave their payment in a designated receptacle. There is no storekeeper or owner hovering around. Honesty is very much in practice.

The provincial master plan is focused on developing the province as a potential eco-cultural tourist destination.

The preserved indigenous stone houses and other native implements, arts and culture are distinctive attractions.



A WARM smile from an Ivatan greets Batanes visitors.

Other ecotourism activities like trekking, mountain climbing, spelunking, swimming, fishing, deep-sea diving, surfing and the new Heritage Museum are some of the potential tourist staples.

Ivatan lifestyle is devoid of stress and pressures. The idyllic surrounding is simple and relaxing. There are no malls, no moviehouses, no casinos and no beer joints. There are a good number of resorts, inns and small restaurants.

After a two-hour road tour, the welcoming party took me to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) provincial office on Abad Street in Basco, the capital town.

After a training needs analysis, the provincial Tesda found out that training on food presentation and other tourism services should be conducted.

Tesda sponsored four skills training in culinary arts, the "Fiesta Kusina Ivatan," bartending and cocktail mixing, and catering services and food presentation.

Although Batanes is a very small province and sparsely populated (15,000), the Tesda-Batanes offers the same number of programs and services as other provinces do.

The author is the newly assigned director of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in Batanes. In this piece, she recounts her impressions of idyllic Batanes, which her relatives and friends described as a "hardship post," and the Tesda's thrust in helping Ivatans.

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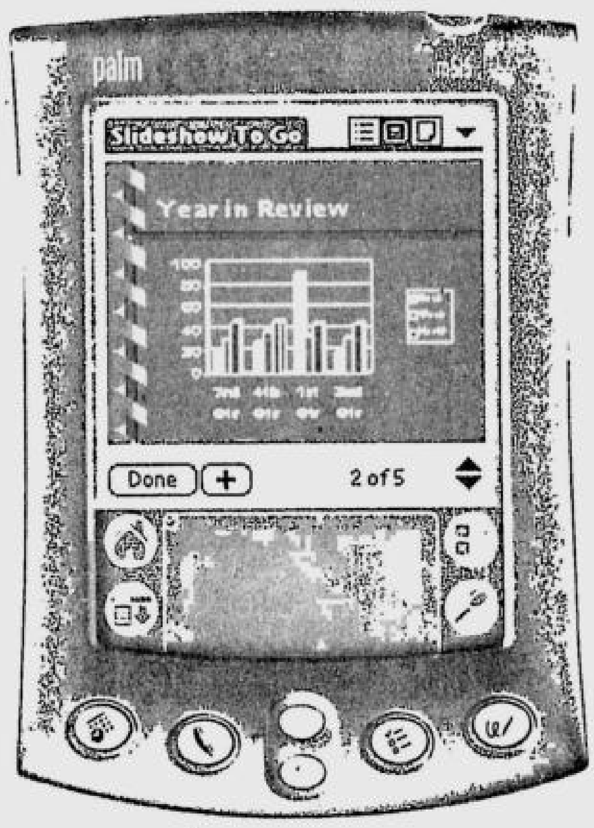

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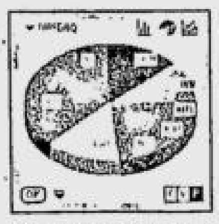

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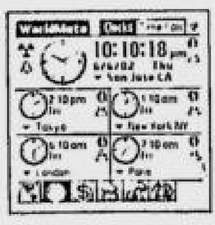

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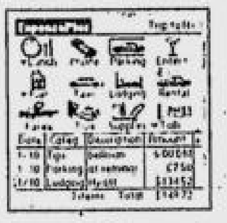

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US takes threat seriously

From page A1

curity)," Roi Divir, Israeli Embassy press attaché, said.

"As for the report, it is nothing new. We heard about that as early as a couple of months ago," Divir said.

Quoting Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, an al-Qaida operative now in the US custody, CNN reported on Monday night that a plot earlier hatched in Singapore to attack US and other Western interests had been moved from Singapore to Manila.

Singapore officials announced in January it had foiled a plot by terrorists linked to al-Qaida to blow up Western embassies, US Navy vessels, a shuttle bus carrying American soldiers and the offices of US companies.

Golez said there was no new terrorist plot to bomb the US and Israeli embassies. "There is no such direct threat. That's old news. CNN is just doing a series . . . and it came out just now with this old news about the threat to some embassies here," he said in an interview over dzRH.

Rehashed story

Golez said the CNN rehashed the story for the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Reyes has a similar observation. "This is an old intelligence report. It has been a report since about March or April this year and this terrorist Mohammed Mansour Jabarah has been arrested . . . in Oman and an interrogation report had been published in an international publication. So this is recycled, there is nothing new about it," the defense secretary said.

But Reyes said the government was trying to verify the report.

"As I said, because it is an interrogation of a terrorist then we have to take the results of the interrogation very seriously," he said.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, chief of the police Intelligence Group, said his operatives had not monitored any threat by any international or local terrorist group to sow terror in the Philippines at this time of the year.

"There's no such threat to the US and Israel embassies here," he said in a phone interview.

Quoting CNN correspondent Maria Ressa, Delfin said the report "was lifted from old files of intelligence reports."

No al-Qaida cell

Delfin pointed out that the single al-Qaida cell in the country had been immobilized following the arrest of Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi on Jan. 15 in Quiapo, Manila.

Al-Ghozi had confessed to being a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, which is believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network. He also admitted to taking part in the bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

"They have no more cell to use for bombing in Metro Manila," Delfin said, adding that other suspected terrorists were believed to have fled the country following Al-Ghozi's arrest.

Police, however, are now tracking down a member of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), who was suspected of having transported part of the explosives buried by al-Ghozi behind a mosque in General Santos City.

Al-Ghozi was sentenced to 18 years for illegal possession of a ton of explosives.

Three other Indonesians identified as Agus Dwikarna, Tamsil Linrung and Abdul Jamal Balfur were arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on March 13.

Dwikarna, reportedly a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment by a Pasay City court for illegal possession of explosives.

There were reports that four tons of explosives acquired by Al-Ghozi were still missing. Golez described the reports as "speculative."

If there's any country where US interests are under threat from al-Qaida terrorists, it's Indonesia, according to Delfin.

Delfin said a suspected Indonesian terrorist now in the custody of US authorities had revealed an al-Qaida plot to attack the US Embassy and interests in Indonesia. "That's why the US embassy there was ordered closed for three days," he said.

Heightened alert

While the CNN report was old, the Philippine National Police remained on heightened alert for any terrorist activity.

"We've been ordered by the PNP chief to secure vital installations in the country and intensify our monitoring and intelligence gathering on the activities (of suspected terrorists)," Delfin said.

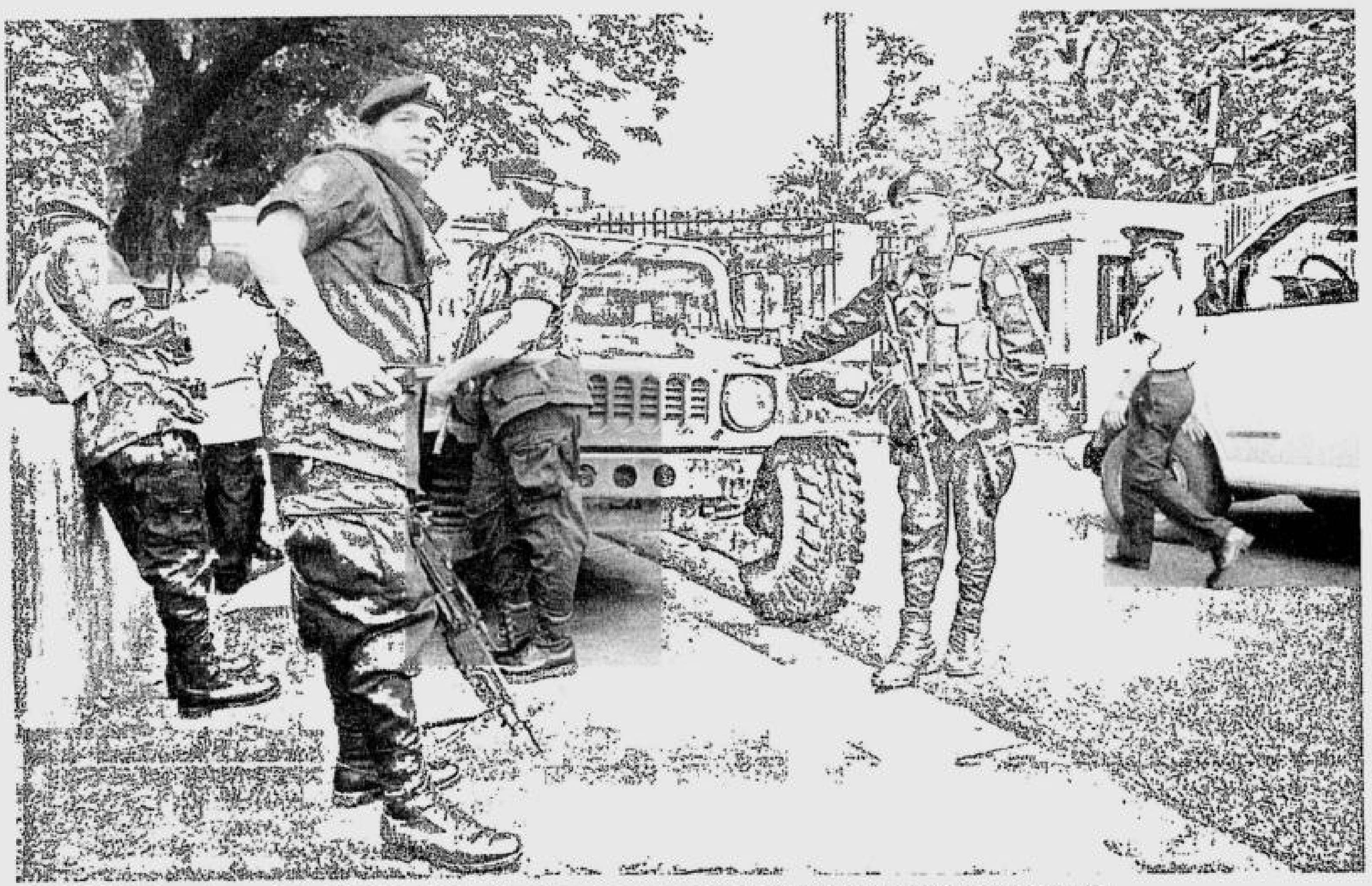
Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), had earlier ordered a close monitoring of criminal groups in five Muslim areas in the metropolis.

For his part, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the embassies of the United States, Israel and United Kingdom, in coordination with local authorities, had undertaken "special security precautions."

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, immigration police said two Palestinian men were barred from entering the country after failing to show proper documentation.

The two arrived from Hong Kong and claimed to be en route to Saudi Arabia. But they failed to produce airline tickets and were carrying a suspiciously large amount of baggage.

"These two Palestinians were actually excluded because they misrepresented themselves," Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said. The Palestinians were sent back to Hong Kong. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AFP***

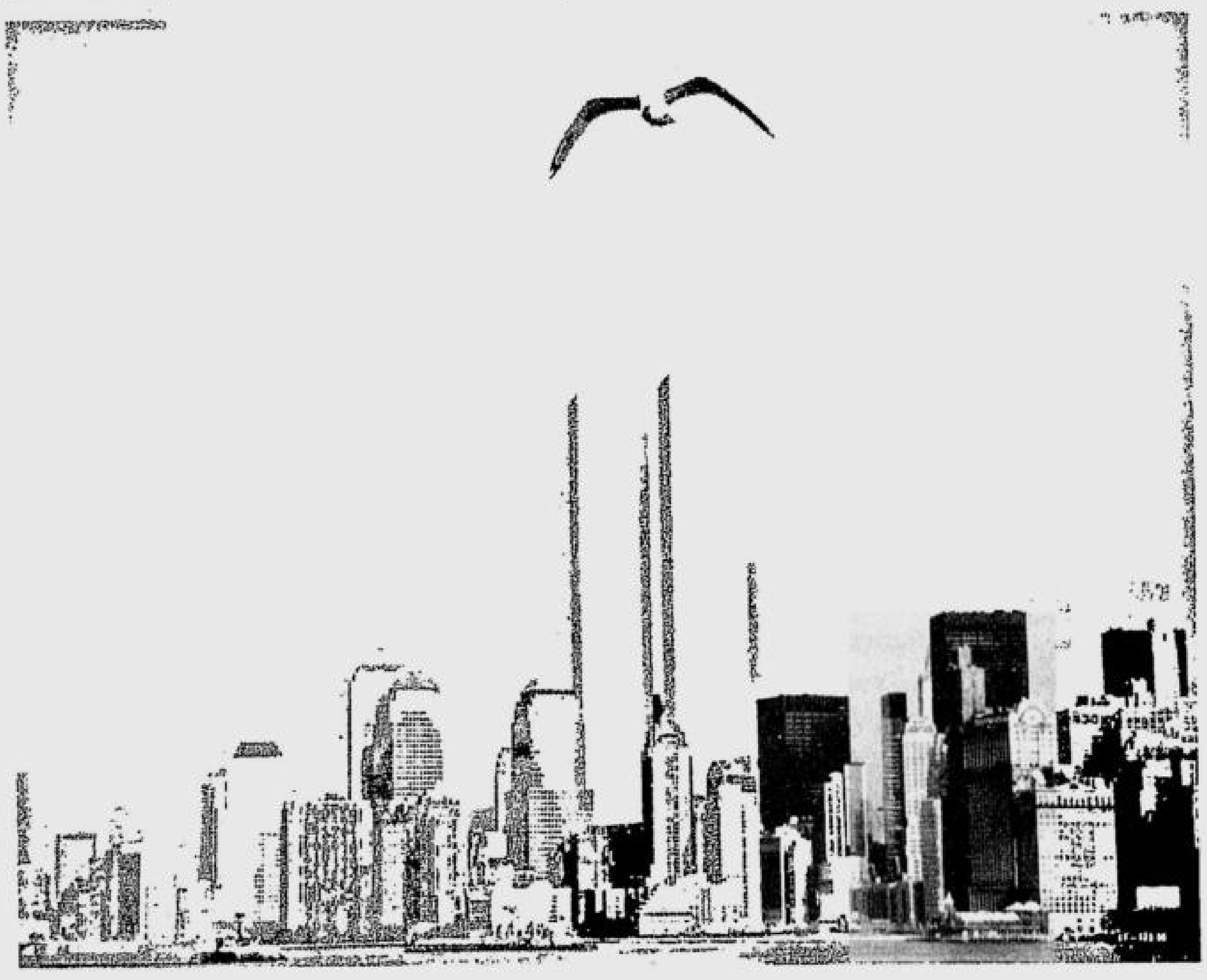


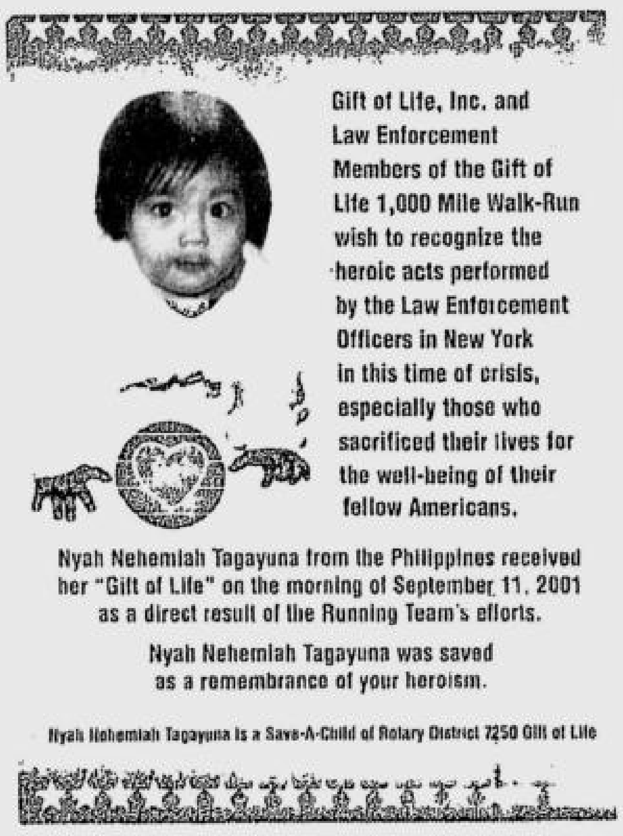
GRIM-FACED members of the PNP Special Action Force secure the main gate of the US Embassy in Manila.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN/
TOOTS SOBERANO, PDI
NORTHERN LUZON
BUREAU

(At right) **THE WAY** it was before the icon of US economic power crumbled, pulverized in the span of 90 minutes.

(Below) **APPRECIATION** poster from the Gift of Life Foundation for New York City policemen and firemen who sponsored the operation of Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna, then a 9-month-old baby from Bohol. (Below right) Members of the Baguio-based theater troupe, Tropang Paltok, put on their masks representing a gamut of emotions from ordinary people's response to the terrorist attack in New York.





Gift of Life, Inc. and Law Enforcement Members of the Gift of Life 1,000 Mile Walk-Run wish to recognize the heroic acts performed by the Law Enforcement Officers in New York in this time of crisis, especially those who sacrificed their lives for the well-being of their fellow Americans.

Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna from the Philippines received her "Gift of Life" on the morning of September 11, 2001 as a direct result of the Running Team's efforts.

Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna was saved as a remembrance of your heroism.

Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna is a Save-A-Child of Rotary District 7250 Gift of Life

Terror tremors . . .

From page A1

warning was received through intelligence sources, saying it was "more than an anonymous e-mail or a phoned in threat." He praised Indonesian authorities for their quick reaction in providing additional security.

A US Embassy spokesperson in Jakarta said a planned memorial service marking the Sept. 11 attacks had been canceled.

The US Consulate in Surabaya, an eastern port on Indonesia's main island of Java, also was shut indefinitely, spokesperson Stan Harsha said.

In the Philippines, where elite US military units have trained Filipino soldiers fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits, authorities moved to tighten security after a suspected al-Qaida member reportedly revealed a plot to bomb the US Embassy as well as other key installations in Manila. ***(See related story on Page A1).***

Malaysia

US officials in neighboring Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim country of 23 million people, said the embassy there would close on Wednesday until further notice.

"Because of a credible and specific threat to the security of the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, the embassy will be closed Wednesday, Sept. 11 to review its security posture," the embassy said in a statement.

Malaysian police were called Tuesday to provide extra security at the embassy, which also issued a warning to all United States citizens in the Southeast Asian nation.

"American citizens are urged to be extremely cautious during the coming days," the statement said. "They should maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to reduce their vulnerability and maintain a low profile."

Malaysia, a focus of the investigation of the Sept. 11 attacks, has detained scores of Islamic militants accused of belonging to an extremist network in Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is a key US ally in the region in the international fight against terrorism, and Malaysians have generally decried the Sept. 11 attacks.

But many oppose US-led military action against Muslims, and a fundamentalist minority has strong sympathies for Islamic extremists, including Bin Laden.

Among the militant suspects detained is a former Malaysian Army captain who allowed senior al-Qaida operatives, including two of the Sept. 11 hijackers, to use his apartment for a meeting in January 2000.

The former captain, Yazid Sufaat, allegedly bought four tons of ammonium nitrate that officials believed was intended to be used in a bombing plot on the US Embassy in neighboring Singapore. The plot was foiled after Malaysian and Singapore police made dozens of arrests in December.

Thailand, Cambodia

In Thailand, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Tuesday he had ordered heightened security at the Bangkok missions of the United States, Britain and Iraq "for the time being."

But he said there was "no sign of terrorist movements" in Thailand ahead of the Sept. 11 anniversary.

In Cambodia, the US Embassy in Phnom Penh canceled a commemorative service for "security reasons."

Singapore, a staunch supporter of the US-led war on terror and home to the regional headquarters of several major American companies, has heightened border security.

Singaporean Defense Minister Tony Tan said Friday that the threat of a terrorist strike in Singapore, where 13 Islamic militants were arrested in December over a plot to blow up Western targets, was still very real.

"They are only biding their time and waiting for the right opportunity to strike," he said.

Singapore Airlines said it would soon install surveillance equipment and fortified cockpit doors in its aircraft. The carrier, one of Asia's largest airlines, installed deadbolts on existing cockpit doors after Sept. 11 last year.

New Zealand

Workers at the mailroom of the US Embassy in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, got a brief scare when a white powder spilled from a package.

The room was closed for about 45 minutes while a rescue team was called in, embassy spokesperson Bill Milkman said. The alert was lifted when the substance was identified as a diet supplement for weightlifters.

Australian security services have asked citizens to be extra-vigilant over the anniversary period. US diplomatic missions in Australia have been put on higher alert.

Pakistan

Terror hotspot Pakistan said it also feared attacks over the anniversary period.

"We have taken precautionary measures as we apprehend some incidents may occur following intelligence reports," Javed Noor, senior police officer in the eastern city of Lahore, told Agence France Presse.

In the southern commercial hub Karachi, which has been plagued by militant activity including a car-bomb attack at the US consulate in June, thousands of police and paramilitaries have been deployed at consulates, hotels and key installations.

Security will be tightened even further in Kabul but military officials said they were not expecting more attacks, despite a major car bombing that killed 30 and an assassination attempt on President Hamid Karzai on Thursday.

"Although we are aware of the significance of tomorrow, we are not chasing, not being bombarded, with leads that something significant is going to happen or anything like that," International Security Assistance Force spokesperson Maj. Gordon MacKenzie told reporters.

"We are just working at this higher level of security just because of the significance of the day." ***Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters***

Filipino child has new life, thanks to NY cops, firemen

From page A1

Some of the wives of the policemen and firemen who had participated in the "walk-run" visited Nyah before the operation, said Baluyot.

Operation goes on

The five-hour operation was done on the fifth floor of the state university of New York Health Service Center in Syracuse, New York on Sept. 11, 2001, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

"In spite of the bombing, the doctors continued the operation. The doctors could not stop the operation when the attack on the WTC twin towers happened at around 8:30 a.m. The sixth to the upper floors of the hospital had to be evacuated, recalled Baluyot.

But the delicate operation going on at Nyah's floor had to go on despite the pandemonium outside.

Baby Nyah is turning 2 on Dec. 4. She would not know whether some of her benefactors were among those who perished in the bombing.

"We saved a baby from the Philippines. This is a symbol of hope," said the policemen and firemen who attended the Gift of Life event in New York honoring their heroism, shortly after the Sept. 11 operation and World Trade Center bombing.

The New York surgeons who operated on Nyah were Dr. George Alfieres, Dr. Marie Blackman, and Dr. Craig Bylum.

Recognition

The NYPD and the NYFD were given a poster of baby Nyah from the Save-a-Child program of Rotary District 7250 Gift of Life.

Some of the policemen and firemen who helped Nyah are members of Rotary District 7250. Philippine Gift of Life is the partner in the Philippines of Gift of Life Rotary District 7250.

The poster with Nyah's picture extols the heroism of the firemen and policemen. It reads:

"Gift of Life Inc., and Law Enforcement members of the Gift of Life 1,000 mile Walk-Run wish to recognize the heroic acts performed by the law enforcement officers of New York in this time of crisis, especially those who sacrificed their lives for the well-being of their fellow Americans.

"Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna from the Philippines received her 'Gift of Life' on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 as a direct result of the Running Team's efforts.

"Nyah Nehemiah Tagayuna was saved as a remembrance of your heroism."

The 1,000-mile walk-run was from Chicago to New York, said Baluyot.

Baluyot said that the Gift of Life district 7250 had already helped 47 Filipino children needing heart surgery in the US since it extended its outreach program in the Philippines on Jan. 9, 1999.

There are several Gift of Life Rotary Districts helping Filipino children with heart problems. Rotary District 7250 is just one of them. Another is Rotary District 7490, the rotary district that helped sponsor the operation of 2-year old Dajed Montojo last year.

Baluyot said that Nyah Tagayuna was now a happy and normal child, thanks to the good hearts of the law enforcers in New York.

'How normal New York seemed at sunrise'

From page A1

Everyone was preoccupied, in just the way we usually call innocence.

And by 10:30 a.m. all that had gone. Lower Manhattan had become an ashen shell of itself, all but a Pompeii under the impact of a terrorist attack involving two airlines that crashed into the World Trade Center and then brought its twin towers down. In Washington, a third plane had plunged into the Pentagon. The president was for a long while out of sight, his plane seeming to hop around the middle of the country in search of security. For all Americans, the unimaginable became real.

In his evening speech, George W. Bush said yesterday was a day we would never forget. It was, in fact, one of those moments in which history splits, and we define the world as "before" and "after." As the scenes of the explosions replayed themselves on television throughout the day, the shock only deepened as we began to perceive the suffering those pictures from New York and Washington concealed—office workers at the World Trade Center, caught in the collapsing lattices of glass and steel, and the unbelieving passengers aboard the second airliner as it swooped below the smoke in the north tower, already burning, and plunged into the southern one.

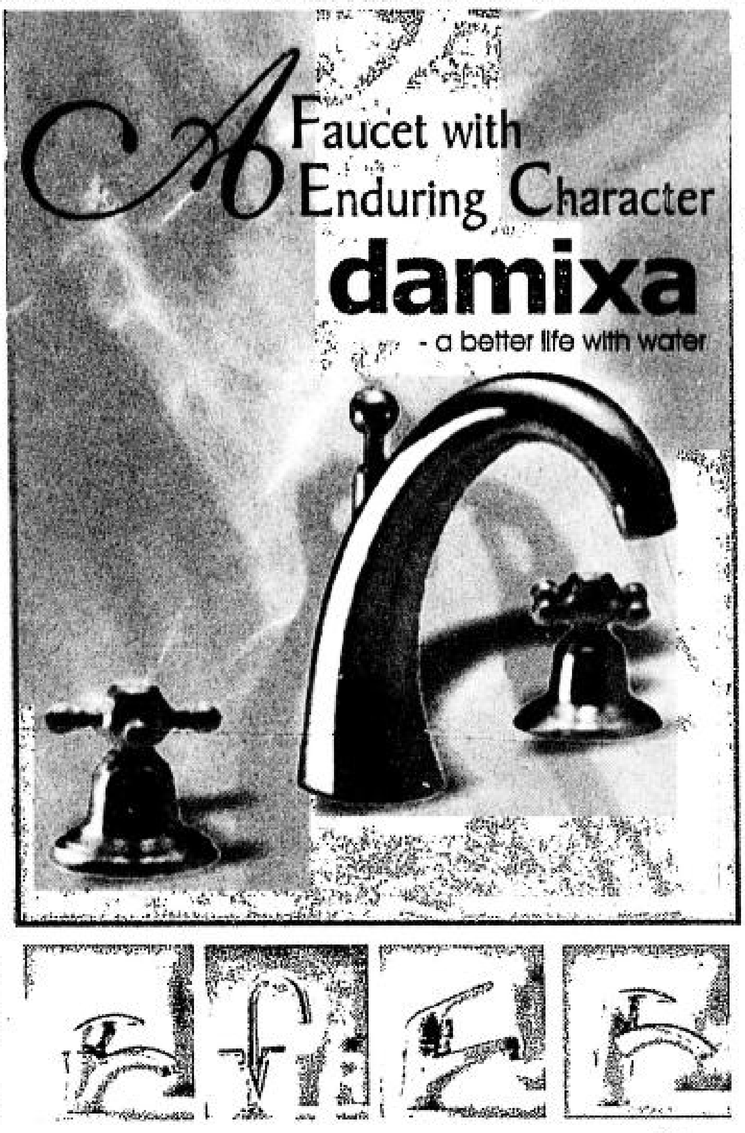
Last night was full of numbers, but they were the numbers of the dead and wounded, a list still stunningly incomplete and likely to remain so for days to come. Every routine, every habit this city knew was fractured yesterday. If a flight full of commuters can be turned into a missile of war, everything is dangerous. If four planes can be taken over simultaneously by suicidal hijackers, then we can never be quite sure again that any bad intention can be thwarted, no matter how irrational or loathsome. We have nearly all had occasion to wonder how civilians who suddenly found their country at war and themselves under attack managed to frame some memory of life as it once was. Now we know. We look back at sunrise yesterday through pillars of smoke and dust, down streets snowed under with the atomized debris of the skyline, and we understand that everything has changed.

As distinctive as the World Trade Center was in its dominance over the city, it was also a profoundly ordinary place. This we learned for the first time when it was bombed in 1993 and out of its stairwells and exits came our friends and neighbors, smudged and grimacing. It was also, as now appears too plainly, shockingly naked against the sky, its only real defense the happy confidence that were some things that no human being would want to do, and others that none could possibly carry off.

Commentators throughout the day yesterday dwelled on the scale of the planning this terrorist mission must have required. But it is just as important to consider the intensity of the hatred it took to bring it off. It is a hatred that exceeds the conventions of warfare, that knows no limits, abides by no agreements. We had presumed that the very excess of such emotions made them erratic, that instability and inefficiency were securely coupled. But that was when we lived on the other side of history's rift.

What we live with now, beyond shock and beyond the courage witnessed on the streets in New York and Washington yesterday, is an urge for reprisal. But this is an age when even revenge is complicated, when it is hard to match the desire for retribution with the need for certainty. We suffer from an act of war without any enemy nation with which to do battle. The same media that brought us the pictures of a collapsing World Trade Center shows us the civilians who live in the same places that terrorists may dwell, whose lives are just as ordinary and just as precious as the ones that we have lost. That leaves us all, for now, with fully burdened emotions, undiminished by anything but the passage of the few hours that have elapsed since midmorning yesterday. There is a world of consoling to be done.

(Reprinted with permission from Today.)



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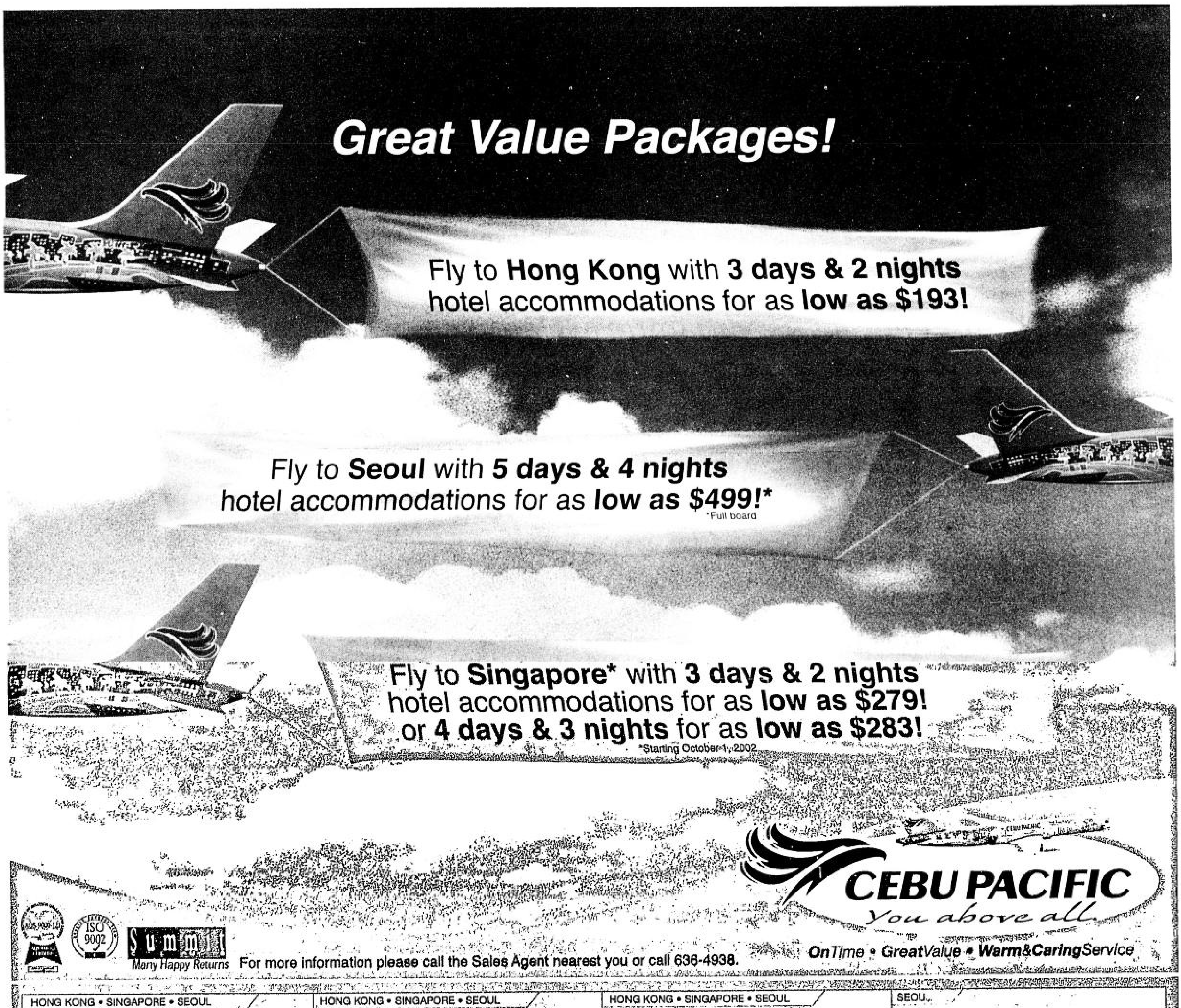
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21 25 33 36 41 42

Golfers fly to Busan

THE COUNTRY'S golfers to the Asian Games fly to Busan, South Korea, today to sample the course to be used for the Asiad.

Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan, Marlon Dizon, Jerome Delariarte and alternate Cookie La'O will be accompanied in the trip by Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez, vice president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

"This is very crucial for us," said Fernandez. "The trip will help us tremendously in our drive to win the gold medals in golf."

The country won both the individual and team silver medals in the last Asiad in Bangkok in 1998.

Fernandez and the boys will play the Asiad Country Club in Busan, a new course built for the quadrennial Games, on Thursday and Friday. After a sightseeing tour on Saturday, they will fly back to Manila on Sunday.

The boys return to Busan on Sept. 26, giving them a week to prime themselves up for the actual action on Oct. 3-6. They have one more day of practice scheduled on Sept. 30.

"We will try to familiarize ourselves with every nook and cranny of the course," said Fernandez. "Golf is knowing the battlefield. Hopefully, our casing the course will put us in good stead when actual competition begins." *ASM*

'Andy Seigle was pacifier'

BELOW is Jodge Ledesma's letter to Sonny Barrios. Ledesma is the marketing and PR manager of CluvbV.

"Dear Mr. Barrios,

"This is regarding the mauling incident Andy Seigle is being accused of recently.

"I am Jodge Ledesma, the Marketing and PR Manager of CluvbV. I believe you must have already seen or heard the interview on me by ABS-CBN's Magandang Umaga Bayan today clarifying Andy Seigle's involvement in the alleged "mauling" incident that happened at CluvbV last Sept. 8, 2002. I had to clear up some things because it's a shame that Andy Seigle, our valued customer, was put into so much bad publicity after that incident. What everyone should know are the following true facts:

"That Andy Seigle, at that time, never engaged himself in a fight with the club's bouncers much less hurt anyone at all.

"If it wasn't for Andy pacifying/controlling his friends, the row between his friends and the club's bouncers would have gone on longer.

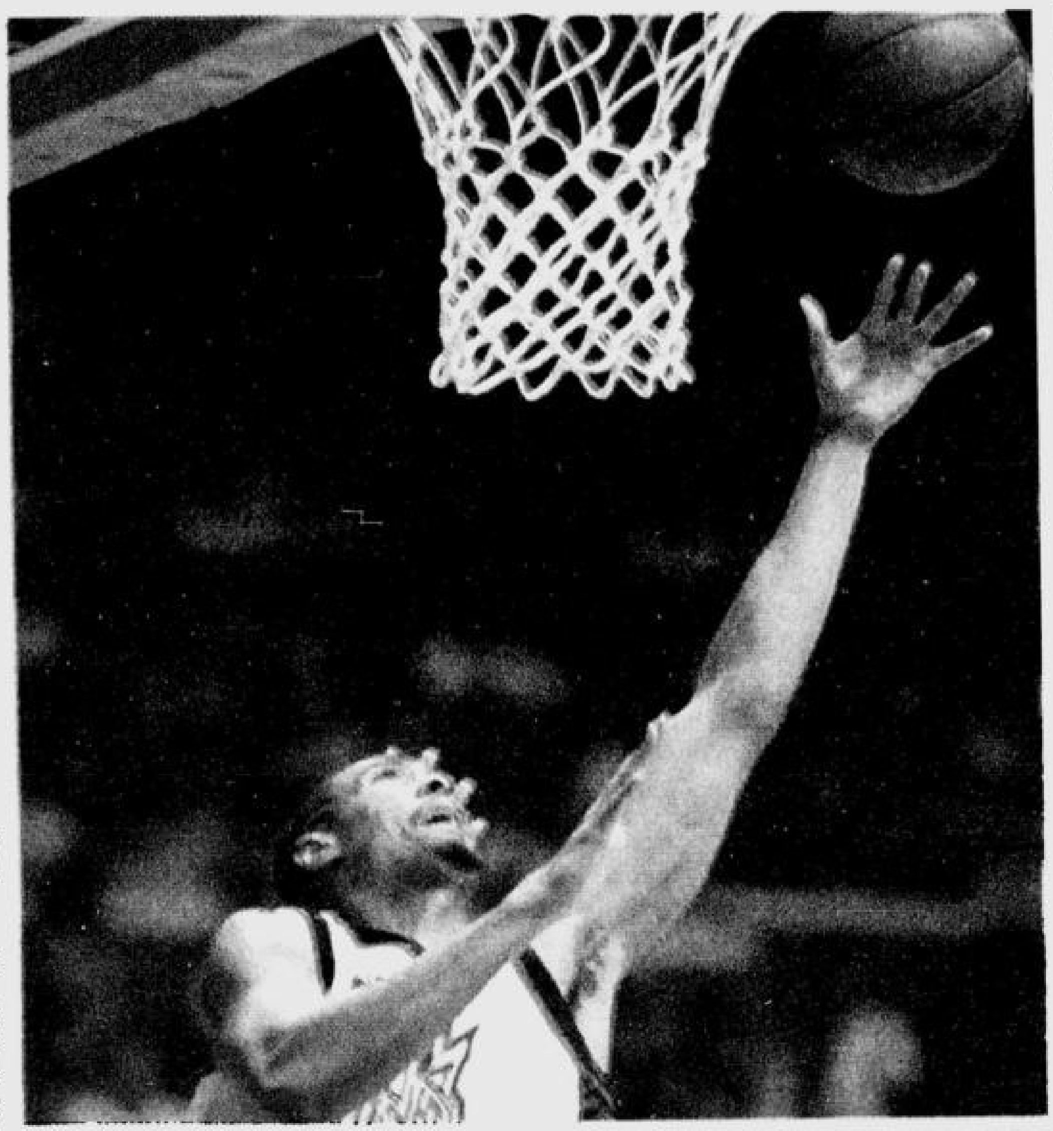
"That it was Andy Seigle's American friend (name unknown to me) and brother Mark whom the club's bouncers had a row with. As what I have witnessed the said "row" did not involve any fist fighting but merely pushing, shoving, ranting/cursing at each other and no one was hurt.

"Nevertheless, this would have been made as an isolated case and that the complainants should have never involved Andy Seigle in the first place.

"In my opinion, there is no case against Andy Seigle. Whatever the other party's reasons for filing a complaint causing the outbreak of so much media hype and bad publicity, is beyond my recognition."

TNT INJURED

Red Bull favored anew



LANG will remain as the key Thunder when Red Bull shoots for a 2-1 lead today over Talk N Text.

FILE PHOTO/ROMY HOMILLADA

By June Navarro

WITH its confidence back, Batang Red Bull continues its title quest against Talk N Text today in Game 3 of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:30 p.m.–Olivarez College vs NCBA
7:30 p.m.–Talk N Text vs Red Bull

Game 1–Talk N Text d Red Bull, 102-100
Game 2–Red Bull d Talk N Text, 96-86

"Although we've regained much of our confidence, we should still be aware that Talk N Text is a hungry team always capable of springing a surprise," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Gametime is 7:30 p.m., with the Thunder and the Phone Pals splitting their matches that reduced the best-of-seven championship showdown to a race-to-three affair.

Through the stewardship of imports Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal, who are backed by a motley crew of determined locals, the Phone Pals stole the opener, 102-100.

Stung, Guiao and his troops snatched back the thunder in Game 2, redeeming their pride with a 96-86 win that leveled the series at 1-1.

As the Thunder got back on their feet, the momentum also shifted on their side of the fence.

And Tony Lang, who redeemed himself from a rusty Game 1 output of 14 by scoring a game-high 37 points in Game 2, vowed to keep it that way.

"We'll do anything just to keep it going. I make mistakes like everybody else but one thing is for sure, we will play harder next time around," said Lang, whose performance during the series opener drew criticisms even from basketball gurus.

"I'm only human and people have to realize that," he added.

Lang, Julius Nwosu, Davonn Harp and Willie Miller, Guiao's only consistent performers in the Finals, are expected to keep the Thunder on the winning side.

"I motivate them by emphasizing that our Game 1 setback was a shameful experience. Those words are enough for them to realize that losing is a painful experience," said Guiao.

The Phone Pals, totally outplayed by the Thunder in all positions, are undergoing the same experience, made worse by an injury suffered by Victor Pablo. Pablo is in danger of missing the rest of the series after hurting his knee last Sunday.

I'm humbled by convenor group's report–Barrios

By Dennis U. Eroa

PBA executive director Sonny Barrios yesterday said he was humbled by an INQUIRER exclusive describing him as the "right person" to replace Jun Bernardino as commissioner.

"I am taking the report with utmost humility," Barrios told this writer.

According to the report, the 54-year-old Barrios, a boyhood friend of Bernardino, has been picked by four of the five members of a convenor group which met recently to discuss the issue.

Health problems has forced the 55-year-old Bernardino to bid the league goodbye, formalizing his retirement this December.

Bernardino will have served eight years as commissioner when he finally steps out of the PBA picture.

He will be credited with having brought Asia's first play-for-pay loop "closer" to the fans.

While saying that there's no sense of urgency for the PBA board to find a new commissioner, Barrios said the convenor's decision was a big honor.

"The names being floated around other than mine are all worthy of the position," said Barrios. "But the reality is, nothing is definite yet."

In an earlier INQUIRER exclusive, Bernardino endorsed Barrios as his successor.

Under the league's by-laws, only the board has the sole power to apppoint the commissioner. Bernardino can only recommend his successor.

Those close to Barrios describes Barrios as a stickler for discipline, someone who gets the job done. He is also unafraid to crack the whip in accordance to rules on erring members of the league.

"I just want our employers to get their money's worth," Barrios said when asked to comment on his drillmaster-like attitude.

As he spoke to the INQUIRER, Barrios, who gained *kudos* when he became acting commissioner for six months when Bernardino was recuperating from a mild stroke, was talking things out with national team member Asi Taulava.

Taulava was involved in an incident against Jeffrey Flowers during an exhibition game.

"Nothing serious," he said. "I just told them to watch it the next time they play."

He also mentioned the case of Andy Seigle, whom some newspapers (not the INQUIRER) tagged as an aggressor in a recent incident at a Makati City bar.

"Andy's being wrongly portrayed as the culprit. I have to come to his defense because he is part not just of the national team, but the PBA as well," Barrios said.

The PBA office faxed to the INQUIRER a letter from Richard Salaya, bar manager of CluvbV, the disco bar where the Seigle incident happened.

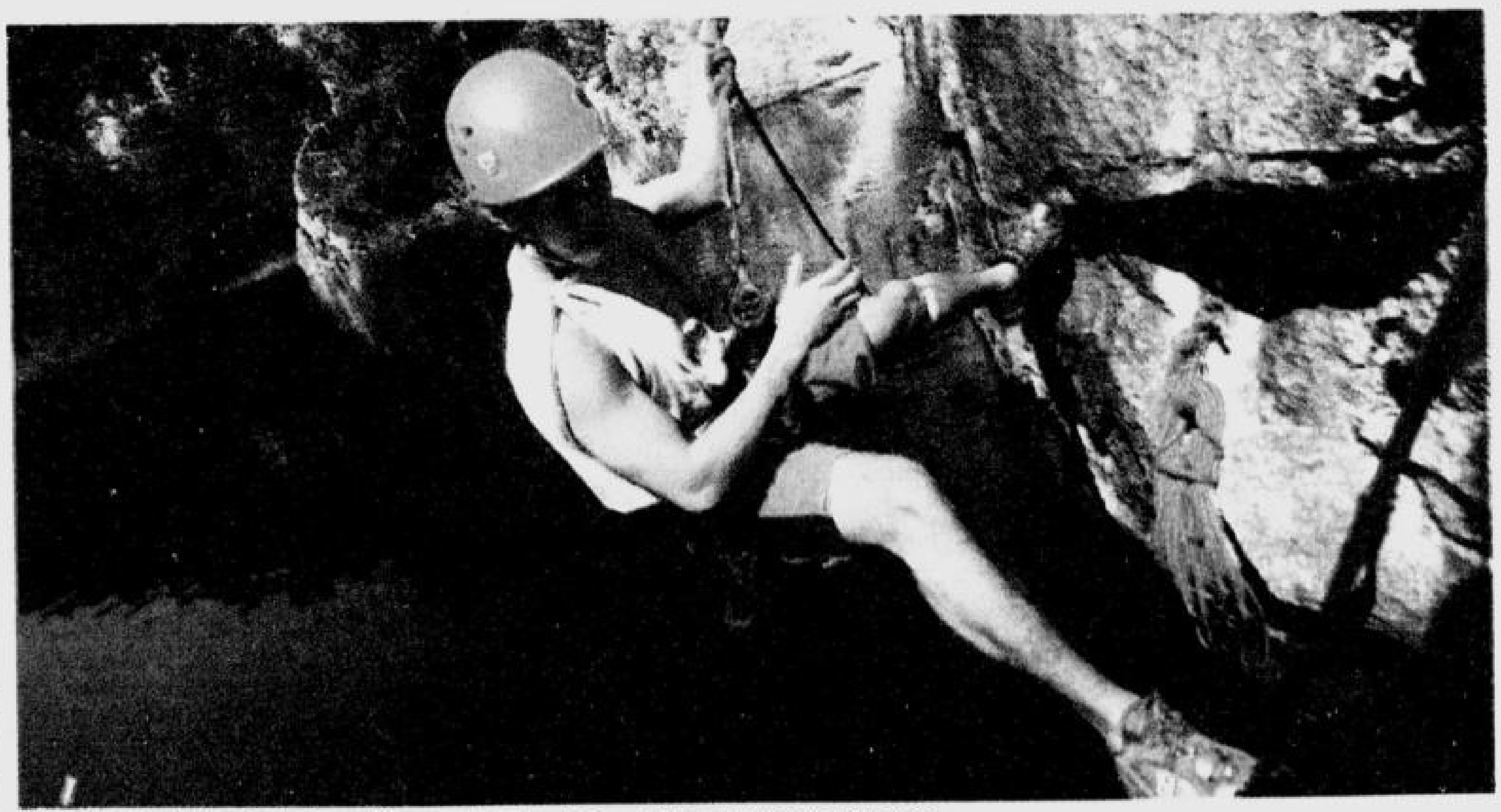
In his letter to Barrios, Salaya said Seigle did not maul or punch any of their bouncers during a "slight argument" between two groups of customers.

If picked as commissioner, Barrios said he's going to be creative and will cling to time-tested tradition.

"As I said, I'll continue the good work of Commissioner Bernardino."

2 Pinoys make name as 'adventurers' in the Czech Republic

FEATURES



BENARES feels the thrill of rapelling over the Czech Republic's picturesque Zichovice.

THEY WORE bronze skins and sun-burnt faces you'd think they just had a beach party from sunrise to sundown.

"It wasn't any competition at all," said Nathaniel Benares, one of two Filipinos who had just arrived from the Marlboro International Adventure Camp in the Czech Republic.

The duo will next compete in the Marlboro Adventure World Team Camp in Moab, Utah, from Sept. 15 to 27.

"Not only did we enjoy, we got to meet new friends, those you say you can instantly trust as friends," said Andrew Chinalpan Jr., whose ponytail got equally popular as he and his teammates competed at the picturesque but challenging Czech National Park at the heart of Zichovice.

The 22-year-old Benares, Chinalpan and five other Filipinos were among a field of 89 from close to a dozen countries who were in the camp that would determine who would link up with other teams from elsewhere in the world for the Moab adventure.

Benares, the rescue-paramedics specialist from the Big City, and Chinalpan, the 28-year-old Bontoc pride who, like his buddy once earned a living guiding trek-enthusiasts, displayed to the hilt their knowledge in 4x4, ATV (all-terrain vehicle), exploring, mountaineering, team building, rafting, rock climbing and rappelling.

They emerged victorious and won berths to Moab.

"There was apprehension at first, apprehension that the challenge in the Czech Republic would be tougher than we had expected," said Chinalpan. "But once we got off the plane, right after we were noticed in our red, black and white Marlboro uniforms with Philippine flags proudly patched on our arms, we knew we were in the right place."

There were others on the team headed by Philip Morris Philippines assistant brand manager Francis Magbitang, namely, Heradio Oracion, Juan Carlos Anton, Emmanuel Torralba and Allan Nino Chiongbian.

All of them, including the two Moab-bound whom brand manager Jasper Evangelista will lead, were culled out of the rain-drenched yet adventure-packed national finals staged in July in Lian, Batangas.

From the Lian adventure came the two finalists for Moab.

"I would say the judges, the hosts and even most of the participants were close to have gotten mesmerized about how skilled and how capable the MAT Philippine members were," said Magbitang. "There was this judge, and a Philip Morris official at that, who told me: "You (Philippine team) are very good."

Very good indeed for at certain instances in the camp, especially in rappelling, exploring and mountaineering, Benares' role was transformed right there and then from participant to adviser and safety expert. Chinalpan had experiences similar to Benares, and so did the four other Lian veterans whose spurs sharpened out of the Batangas nationals were hardly matched by those from the other countries.

"Our MAT team members turned out to be a match for the rest of the guys," Magbitang said.

The Lian experience was a compact three-day event where 24 entires beat some 200 bets in the unrelenting rain off Batangas Bay and up Mount Tigbalang to advance to the Czech experience. Of the 89 in the Czech Republic, a dozen of whom were women, 24 advanced to Utah. The Philippines sent six although some of the countries, like Mexico, had close to 30 entries.

"I had a teammate who intimated he got to get to the Czech Republic by accident. *Nayaya lang sa* bar *at nag*-fill up *ng* application. The next thing he knew, he was on a plane to Europe," said Chinalpan. Others were from Poland, Switzerland, Canada, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Moab?

"We'll have more fun," chorused Benares and Chinalpan. "Now we know what the MAT is all about. Adventure, and lots and lots of fun."

SPORTSTV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Fred Meyer Golf Challenge at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN
PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 1 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA Bell Canadian Open at 2 p.m. on Star Sports
This is the PGA Tour at 11:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
BILLIARDS: 2002 International Challenge of Champions at 1 p.m. on ESPN
BASEBALL: This Week in Baseball at 12:30 p.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. on Star Sports and 2 p.m. on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 12 noon on ESPN
SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship at 6 p.m. on ESPN
EXTREME SPORTS: ASA Skatepark Tour at 5 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

THE TRUE STATE OF THE MANILA POLO CLUB

FIVE MEMBERS who are vying for board seats have taken the unprecedented step of going **PUBLIC** and engaging in a **NEGATIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.** They **PAINT** a picture of a Manila Polo Club seemingly saddled with financial woes; **ASSAIL** the integrity and competence of the board; **USE** slogans and statements such as "Moral Regeneration" that are disparaging and deceptive and **EMPLOY** all means, including legal maneuvers that forced the postponement of the annual meeting and elections. Their campaign benefits from **LIES** and **BLACK PROPAGANDA.** Their pretensions to high moral ascendancy are a **MOCKERY.**

WE, the undersigned officers and directors of the Manila Polo Club, are compelled to make known the **TRUE STATE** of the Club because the lies and black propaganda have affected the public image and value of the share of the Club.

At the beginning of our term, FY2001 had just closed with **STAGGERING LOSSES.** After our resolute and timely reform measures, the Manila Polo Club is now on the **ROAD BACK TO FISCAL HEALTH** with a **ZERO DEFICIT** in sight for FY2003. Now, these five members who were hardly seen in the Club before this, posture themselves as "reformers" to propel themselves into the board. They may yet succeed, but at the sacrifice of **TRUTH, DECENCY and FAIRNESS.**

REAL GOOD GOVERNANCE EXEMPLIFIED

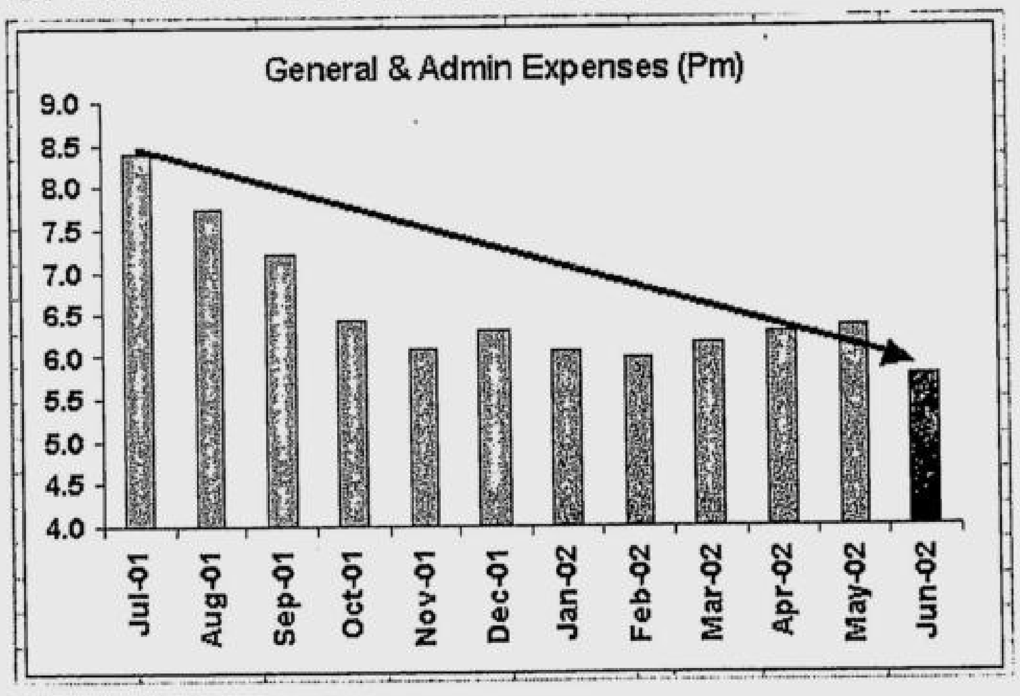
CLUB IN SOUND FINANCIAL HEALTH:

P134 MILLION Cash in banks & Investments in T-BILLS. **NO LOAN FROM ANY BANK.** The allegation that the Club is in hock for P250M is a **BLATANT LIE.**

- **P5 MILLION EXCESS** of Revenues over Expenses, before depreciation vs. P19M deficit in FY 2001.
- **P23 MILLION or 67% REDUCTION** in deficit after depreciation.
- **P15 MILLION or 39% REDUCTION** in bottom line deficit.

Based on FY2002 Financial Statements audited by Joaquin Cunanan PriceWaterHouse.

OPERATING EXPENSES DRASTICALLY CUT



BETTER FACILITIES

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POLO TRADITION ENSURED

The yearly tournament and socials, enshrined traditions, are ensured by the Polo field rehabilitation which is the 1st ever done in more than 40 years.

BOARD'S ACTS TRANSPARENT

All decisions of the board were reported to the members in the ***Polo Post,*** starting with ***"Board Trims Fat, Cuts Waste"*** in August 2001, ***"Unprecedented Structural Reforms"*** in February 2002 wherein ***"Restructuring, Cost Containment and Outsourcing"*** were identified as the measures being taken, ***"F&B Operations Outsourced".*** "***Clubhouse Improvements Set***" in March 2002 and "***Board Engineers Return to Fiscal Health***" in May 2002. Surveys were even conducted to get members' views.

FLAGSHIP MEASURE PROVIDES P22 MILLION BENEFIT

The F&B operations resulted in yearly P10 million losses. Its outsourcing gives the Club a guaranteed minimum monthly P1 million fee or P12 million a year. This will translate to a P22 million benefit in FY2003 bottom line and in subsequent years.

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Liar, liar: Webber indicted over school dealings

WEBBER

By David Runk
AP Sportswriter

DETROIT—Sacramento Kings star Chris Webber was indicted Monday on charges he lied to a grand jury about his dealings with a University of Michigan basketball booster more than a decade ago.

Webber, who led Michigan's "Fab Five" team to two NCAA title games, was charged with obstruction of justice and making a false declaration before a grand jury, FBI spokesperson Dawn Clenney said.

Webber's father, Mayce Webber, and his aunt, Charlene Johnson, were indicted on the same charges.

If convicted, each faces up to 10 years in prison and a $500,000 fine.

The indictment contends that Webber, his father and aunt lied to the grand jury and conspired to conceal the cash, checks, clothing, jewelry and other benefits that booster Ed Martin gave the player and his family from 1988-1993. All three testified in 2000.

The Kings and a league spokesperson each refused to comment on the indictment. Messages seeking comment from the elder Webber and Johnson were not immediately returned.

After Martin's indictment, Webber publicly denied taking significant amounts of money from him and said the government's charges were inaccurate. Martin pleaded guilty in May to conspiracy to launder money.

Martin admitted he took gambling money, mixed it with earned income and money given to him from another person, then loaned it to at least four players while they were amateurs.

Martin said he paid $280,000 to Webber; $160,000 to Robert Traylor, now with the New Orleans Hornets; $ 105,000 to Maurice Taylor, now with the Houston Rockets; and $71,000 to Louis Bullock, who has been playing professionally in Europe.

Taylor and Bullock admitted receiving the money in testimony to the grand jury, their attorney, Steve Fishman, has said.

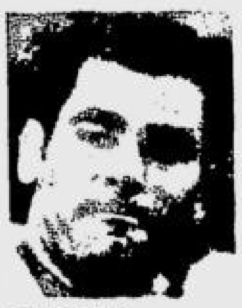
Former Michigan guard Jalen Rose, now with the Chicago Bulls, also said in May that he took "pocket money" from Martin.

Webber, a 29-year-old four-time All-Star, was the first pick in the 1993 NBA draft and was rookie of the year with Golden State. He starred at Washington before being traded to the Kings.

Webber led Sacramento to the Western Conference finals, and the Kings were eliminated in Game 7 by the eventual NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers.

'Feel good' weekend at US Open

By Steve Keating
Reuters Sportswriter



SAMPRAS

NEW YORK—The future of tennis and perhaps one last glimpse of its glorious past marked a US Open where Serena Williams and Pete Sampras captured the season's final grand slams.

They also left New Yorkers with a patriotic feel good weekend ahead of the Sept. 11 anniversary.

With the "Heroes flag" rescued from the rubble of the World Trade Center fluttering above the Arthur Ashe stadium court throughout an emotional fortnight, Americans competing at Flushing Meadows said they found inspiration in the resiliency of New Yorkers who flocked to the event in record numbers.

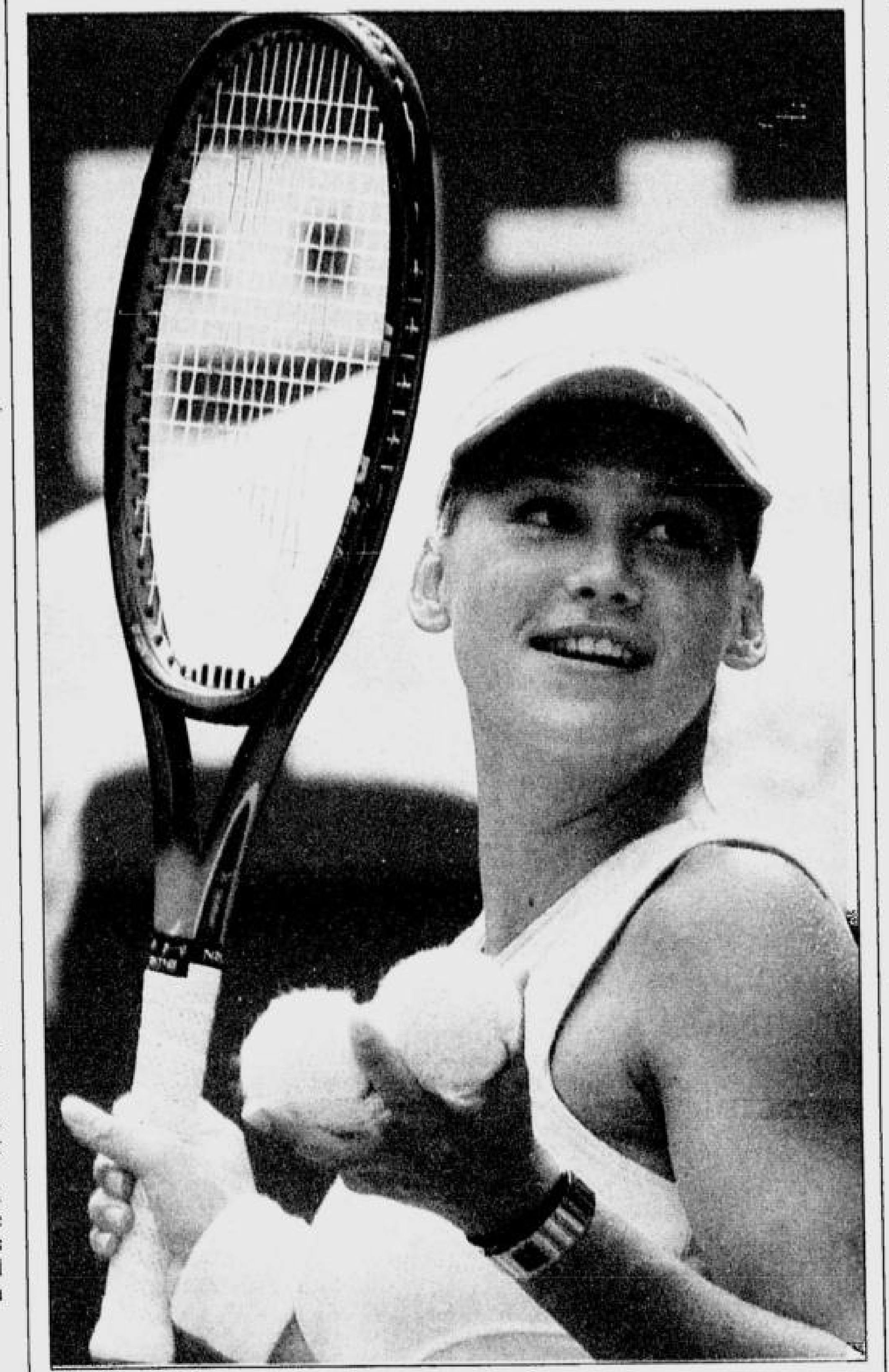
None was more motivated than the aging Sampras, who defied the odds, fatigue and an army of critics to claim an unprecedented 14th career grand slam title with a stirring 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 win over Andre Agassi. He then hinted that this—his most unlikely victory—could be the storybook ending to a brilliant career.

A day earlier on the same court, under floodlights and watched by a prime-time television audience, it was Serena Williams who stole the spotlight. Dressed in her US Open evening wear—an eye-popping skin-tight black lycra catsuit—she swept past big sister Venus, 6-4, 6-3, adding the title to her Wimbledon and French Open crowns.

Such was the manner of her victory that talk of a "Sister slam" was suddenly replaced by predictions of a "Serena slam" with the younger Williams confirming her status as the dominant player in the women's game.

From the opening ceremony, "Salute to Heroes," there seemed little doubt Serena and twice defending champion Venus, who had contested three of the previous four slams finals, would be wrestling for another at Flushing Meadows.

But few could have penned a script that would have had Andre Agassi, the evergreen Las Vegas showman, confronting his eternal rival Pete Sampras, the grand slam record holder, in the men's final.



KOURNIKOVAMANIA
Anna Kournikova of Russia gives away signature tennis balls after beating Mireille Dittman of Australia, 6-1, 6-4, on Tuesday to advance to the second round of the SVW Polo Open in Shanghai, China. Kournikovamania hit China after the 21-year-old Muscovite played her first-ever tournament in the country. REUTERS

Yugo fans sing, dance, shoot guns into air

By Jim O'Connell
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS—The cars outside the arena were filled with people waving red, white and blue flags. The World Championships had ended an hour earlier, but the United States was nowhere close to a gold medal.

Not at these World Championships.

Downtown Indianapolis had the flavor of downtown Belgrade on Sunday, with Yugoslavia fans celebrating their country's 84-77 overtime victory over Argentina.

In the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade, hundreds of thousands of jubilant fans poured into the streets, singing and dancing and shooting guns into the air. Thirty-two fans were injured and police arrested 77 people.

"The victory is so much sweeter as it was scored in America, the cradle of basketball," former Yugoslav team captain Aleksandar Djordjevic said.

The US team was done Saturday night, losing the fifth-place game to Spain. It was the third straight loss for the Americans in the 16-team tournament.

Few in the sellout crowd of 17,709 at Conseco Fieldhouse were dwelling on USA Basketball's problems on Sunday.

A disputed non-call sent the game into overtime and Yugoslavia pulled away, becoming the first team to repeat as world champion since Brazil in 1963.

"It's wonderful we were able to defend the gold medal and for the fifth time prove we are champions of the world," said Dejan Bodiroga, who had 27 points, including Yugoslavia's last nine of regulation as it wiped out an eight-point deficit over the final 2 1/2 minutes.

Only Sampras knows when he'll stop playing

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras kept saying it.

After losing a second straight US Open final a year ago, after exiting Wimbledon in the second round, after losing to a 77th-ranked nobody last month, he'd clear his throat and pronounce: "I'm going to stop on my own terms."

Few are likely to offer the 31-year-old Sampras career advice now, not after he beat old foe Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 Sunday to win his fifth US Open title and record 14th Grand Slam championship. He's the Open's oldest winner since 1970.

"I'm going to have to weigh it up in the next couple months to see where I'm at. To beat a rival like Andre, in a storybook ending, it might be nice to stop," Sampras said. "But . . ."

If he does take his time deciding whether to keep playing or concentrate on being a family man (his wife, actress Bridgette Wilson, is pregnant with their first child), well, he's earned it.

Piazza grand slam boosts Mets to 11th straight title

PHILADELPHIA—The Atlanta Braves clinched their 11th straight division title when the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-4 Monday behind Mike Piazza's grand slam.

Philadelphia's loss wrapped up the National League East for the Braves. The second-place Phillies are a staggering 21 games behind Atlanta.

The Braves became the first team to secure a postseason berth this season, and did it earlier than any team in Atlanta history. The 1975 Cincinnati Reds have the earliest clinching since divisional play began in '69, wrapping up the NL West on Sept. 7.

The Mets set a season high with their seventh consecutive victory and completed their second four-game sweep at Veterans Stadium. The other came in 1972. They haven't lost since setting an NL record with 15 consecutive home losses.

The Phillies have lost seven of eight.

In Milwaukee, Woody Williams and four relievers combined on a five-hitter as St. Louis won its sixth straight game.

Albert Pujols doubled home a run for the NL Central-leading Cardinals and Williams (8-4) gave up three hits in five innings against a makeshift Brewers lineup to lower his ERA to 2.55.

Steve Kline pitched the ninth for his fifth save. The St. Louis bullpen has gone 34 consecutive innings without allowing a run.

Milwaukee was shut out for the 14th time this season.

In his second major league start, Ben Diggins (0-2) gave up three runs on six hits in seven innings. Astros 6, Rockies 5, 10 innings *AP*

Brady powers Patriots past Steelers, 30-14

By Dave Goldberg
AP Football Writer

FOXBORO, Massachusetts—Tom Brady led the New England Patriots to a 30-14 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Monday, passing for 294 yards.

Brady passed for touchdowns to Christian Fauria, Donald Hayes and Deion Branch, none of whom were with the Patriots last season during their surprising run to the Super Bowl.

It was a huge start to the season for the New England against the team it upset 24-17 on the road in the American Football Conference championship game last season. Pittsburgh entered as both a favorite to win the conference title and as a 3-point favorite on the road against the defending champions.

But Brady, an obscure backup who ended up as Super Bowl Most Valuable Player after taking over in the second game for an injured Drew Bledsoe, demonstrated that rather than a fluke, he belongs among the game's elite quarterbacks.

Throwing 25 consecutive times during the second and third quarters, he broke open a 10-7 game with two TD passes in the first half of a 17-point third quarter. One went for 40 yards to Hayes, a free-agent signing, and the second to Branch, the Patriots' second-round draft choice.

SPORTSWATCH

US spikers ride wave of success

BREMEN, Germany—For the United States, the only unbeaten team remaining at the women's Volleyball World Championships, an unblemished record heading into the quarterfinals means everything . . . and nothing. Sailing through their eight preliminary and second round matches in Riesa unscathed, the Americans are eagerly riding the wave of their success, itching to take on three-time Olympic and world champions Cuba on Wednesday. However, the team is also aware that in the knockout phase, there is no room for mistakes, not even a first. "Since I've had to make changes on the team, like the setters, it's good for the players that they kept winning," American head coach Toshiaki Yoshida said. *AP*

Felix Trinidad won't fight again

LAS VEGAS—Felix Trinidad will watch Saturday night as two fighters he has beaten, Oscar De La Hoya and Fernando Vargas, meet in a 154-pound (69.853-kilogram) showdown. There will be no winner for Trinidad, though. The former three-time champion and Puerto Rican hero says his decision to retire is a permanent one. "It's a real retirement. I'm retired, it's in cement," Trinidad said Monday. "I've done well in this business and I'm walking away healthy. I'm happy and that is really what is important. *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 3; Toronto 11, Cleveland 9; Chi White Sox 10, Kansas City 6; Minnesota 5, Detroit 2; Texas 12, Seattle 7; Oakland 2, Anaheim 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 8; NY Mets 6, Philadelphia 4; St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 0; Chicago Cubs 3, Montreal 2; Houston 6, Colorado 5 (10 innings); Arizona 5, San Diego 2; San Francisco 6, Los Angeles 5 *AFP*

Giants win as Bonds hits longest HR

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds hit the longest home run ever at the Giants' Pacific Bell Park as San Francisco beat Los Angeles 6-5 Monday to tie the Dodgers for the wildcard lead.

"We're in a dead heat, and that's what it's all about," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said.

The Braves clinched their 11th straight division title when the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-4 behind Mike Piazza's grand slam.

The loss by second-place Philadelphia wrapped up the NL East for the Braves, who were off Monday and had no plans to break out the champagne.

Bonds launched a 147-meter drive off Odalis Perez (13-9) for his 610th career homer and 43rd of the season. It sailed over people standing in a food line between bleacher seats in the 3-year-old ballpark.

David Bell hit a tiebreaking, two-run shot in the sixth inning as the Giants won their fourth in a row and 12th in 15 games.

"I think if we're going to get on a streak where we're playing our best baseball of the year, this is a great time to do it," Rich Aurilia said.

Jeff Kent reached 1,000 career RBIs, and Livan Hernandez (10-15) gave up three runs in seven innings for the Giants.

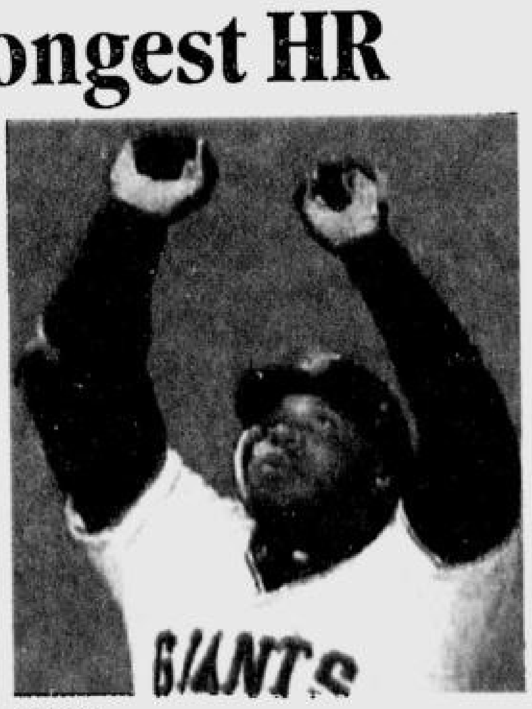
Robb Nen earned his 37th save in 45 opportunities, breaking Rod Beck's franchise record for saves with 200.

The NL West rivals play again Tuesday and Wednesday. Both have 19 games remaining.

In Houston, Mark Loretta's 10th-inning single drove in Craig Biggio with the winning run as Houston beat Colorado.

The Astros have won five of their last seven games and remain 5 1/2 games behind St. Louis in the NL Central.

Brad Lidge (1-0) got the win, pitching one inning. Todd Helton hit his 28th homer for the Rockies. Randy Flores (0-1) took the loss. *AP*



BONDS

SSC, Benilde seek NCAA finals today

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—San Sebastian vs Mapua (jrs)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Jose Rizal (srs)
4 p.m.—St. Benilde vs PCU (srs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College and College of St. Benilde enjoy the luxury of a twice-to-beat advantage when the Final Four of the 78th NCAA basketball tournament begins today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

But the defending champion Stags and the Blazers, who captured the crown in 2000, would rather fight tooth and nail against their semifinal opponents than spending the pleasure of having a twice-to-beat edge.

After topping the eliminations with an 11-3 record, the Stags face No. 4 Jose Rizal University (9-5) while the second-seeded Blazers meet Philippine Christian University (9-5). The Dolphins ranked third by virtue of a better quotient over the Heavy Bombers.

Should the Blazers and the Stags come out unscathed in the semifinals, they will figure in a best-of-three Finals encounter next week.

"The teams in the Final Four have equal chances of getting to the Finals. We have to continue our system during the eliminations. Otherwise, we can be beaten," said San Sebastian coach Turing Valenzona.

"If we do that, there's no reason why we can't win in the Final Four and eventually keep the crown," added Valenzona, who steered the Stags to five straight championships in the '90s.

Valenzona is also confident that his wards can squeeze past the stubborn Heavy Bombers, whom they defeated twice this season. The Stags also clinched the title last year at the expense of the Heavy Bombers.

The Blazers have the manpower advantage over the Dolphins, who won three of their last four meetings dating back to last year.

CRUZ (left), seen in action in this file photo, banners the RP Team to the Busan Asian Games.

Young RP jins hit gold mine

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE taekwondo jins, composed mostly of young members of the developmental pool, kicked their way to runner-up overall honors with four golds, four silvers and two bronzes in the recent Asean Taekwondo Championships in Kuala Lumpur.

Josephine Strachan, Jeferthom Go, Jose Emmanuel Enriquez and Ann Margaret Boyle plucked gold medals in their respective divisions to lead the other medal winners. The Philippines finished second behind overall titlist Vietnam, which won six golds.

Go, the only Team A member in the lineup, trailed, 0-2, in the first round against his Vietnamese foe before rallying for a 6-5 victory in the men's featherweight. Strachan and Boyle defeated Malaysians to rule the women's lightweight and heavyweight category, respectively.

But the most spectacular final match belonged to Bacolod-native Enriquez, who hit a three-pointer in the final 10 seconds of the match to score a 5-4 win over a Vietnamese in the men's finweight.

Enriquez was behind, 4-2, as the time was winding down when he heeded head coach Dr. Noli Gabriel's instruction to "go for the head." The jin next flipped for a round-house which landed on his rival's head and knocked him down.

Taking silver medals were Mary Antoinette Rivera in women's featherweight, Dax Morfe in men's heavyweight, Lorraine Catalan in women's flyweight and Criselda Roxas in women's welterweight.

Gerald Gregorio (flyweight) and Rodel Valenzuela (bantamweight) brought home a bronze medal each to complete the country's medal haul in the six-nation event.

Though most of the winners were not included in the Asian Games roster, their achievement is seen as a big push for taekwondo considering that they are the next in line in the hierarchy of Philippine taekwondo.

Also bannering the RP jins in Busan are Roberto Cruz, Tshomlee Go, Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Donald Geisler, Dindo Simpao, Eva Marie Ditan, Kalindi Tamayo, Veronica Domingo, Sally Solis, Margarita Bonifacio and Daleen Cordero.

Kuarta Padala, Lhuillier deliver at crunchtime

ML Kuarta Padala and M. Lhuillier Jewelers started their campaign on a bright note by beating separate rivals in the opening on Monday of the Cebu Basketball League's (CBL) Crunchtime at the New Cebu Coliseum.

The Kuarta Cash Forwarders survived the furious rally of Paul Alvarez-led Forex Forwarders in the endgame to escape with a 93-89 win while the Jewelers proved too much for Forward Taguig in their 100-84 victory.

The North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol, with some of the best Cebu talents at the helm, registered a rousing 83-74 triumph over Montaña Pawnshop of Davao in the first game.

Kuarta Padala found its 15-point lead chopped to just three after a four-point play by Forex's Jonathan de Guzman in the final 11 seconds.

But Kuarta's Joselito Celiz drew a foul in the return play and split his charities. Former MBA player Bruce Dacia's offensive rebound off Celiz's miss sealed the Forwarders' doom.

Forest Hills Chairman's Cup draws 400 bets

CLOSE to 400 members, guests and sponsors will join Forest Hills Golf and Country Club's "2002 Chairman's Cup" slated on Sept. 13-15 in Antipolo City.

The three-day affair, extended by the tournament committee to accommodate more players, is an annual event held in honor of club chair lawyer Ferdinand T. Santos.

A total of P1 million worth of fabulous prizes are at stake in the tournament, according to tournament director Victor de Guzman.

De Guzman, who chairs the Sports and Games Committee of Forest Hills, said that scoring format would be based on the modified Stableford system.

Invited to grace the ceremonial tee-off together with Santos are VIPs Rizal Gov. Nini Ynares, Rizal Representatives Vic Sumulong and Jack Duavit, Antipolo City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan, Fil-Estate Corp. chair Robert Sobrepeña and Forest Hills president Noel Cariño.

Abaya bill: boon or bane?

Manolo R. Iñigo

CLEAN LIVING

REP. Antonio Abaya, chair of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, has introduced House Bill 5129 "requiring educational institutions and commercial establishments to actively cooperate and assist the government in the selection and formation of Philippine national teams that will compete in all international sports competitions and providing penalties for violation thereof."

Applying to both athletes and teams participating in professional or amateur sports competitions, the bill states that any person who violates the provisions of this act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six months nor more than one year or fined P20,000 to P50,000 (or both) at the discretion of the court. Similarly, a corporation, association or any other juridical person, the president, treasurer, secretary or any other responsible person shall also be held liable. In addition, its license or franchise shall be suspended for a period of one year.

Abaya filed HB 5129 following the humiliating setback of the Philippine basketball team during last month's Southeast Asian Basketball Association junior tournament in Kuala Lumpur, leading the House committee on youth and sports development chaired by Rep. Monico Puentevella to conduct an investigation into the matter to avoid similar embarrassments for the country in the future.

During that hearing, BAP president Tiny Literal said the Philippines failed miserably in the Seaba cagefest because the country's best talents did not join the team because they were playing for their schools and other teams in collegiate and commercial tournaments. *"Wala naman tayong magagawa dahil walang batas na magpupuwersa sa mga players na ito na palaruin sa* RP team," said Literal in Tagalog.

According to Abaya, these situations present hindrances in forming a competitive team because they greatly limit selections options, hence the need for HB 5129. However, the bill is already meeting opposition from many sectors, including hundreds of basketball players whose main source of income is playing the game.

SPORTSWATCH

AND1 endorsers clash

AND1 endorsers Mike Cortez and Rich Alvarez clash anew as they lead their respective teams to the road to the Final Four on Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. The Blue Eagles will be out to avenge their first round loss to the Green Archers especially with Rich Alvarez returning to action. With tickets to the game at a premium, National Sports Grill offers an alternative venue for sports fans to enjoy the game with their favorite drinks and NSG's excellent food at no cover charge. NSG also has 30 television sets and the only 3 sided jumbotron in town plus its stadium-like ambiance. For reservations call 752-5431.

St. Clare downs AUF

ANGELES CITY—St. Clare College (Caloocan) brought down Angeles University Foundation, 92-87, to clinch one of four semis berth in the 2002 National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the AUF gym. Jason Palijo, Ryan Michael Ancheta and Dennis Maddara took up the scoring cudgels for the Saints, who posted their fourth win in seven matches in the eight-team, single-round tournament. Palijo led all scorers with a game high 25 points.

Lorenzo, Tupi gain semis

POLOMOLOK, South Cotabato—Defending champion San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy and newcomer Tupi National High topped their respective groups to make it to the semifinals of the Coke Go-for-Goal South Cotabato under 16 football eliminations at the SLRA field here. The four-time champion SLRA booters blasted Subway Central, 2-0, and then nosed out Polomolok National High, 1-0, to rule Group A. Tupi National High beat Christian Institute and Polomolok National High, 4-0, to emerge No.1 in Group B.

Polgar stuns Kasparov

HUNGARIAN GM Judit Polgar beat Garry Kasparov for the first time ever as the Rest of the World held Russia to a 5-5 draw in Round 5 Monday night and stayed ahead in their match of the new century at the Kremlin Hall in Moscow. Despite losing Rounds 3 and 4, both by 5.5-4.5, the Rest of the World still led Russia, 25.5-24.5, at the halfway mark of the four-day event sanctioned by the World Chess Federation.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Paeng Nepomuceno and Irene Garcia beat their respective rivals to claim the Masters titles in the Vice President Estrada Cup Open tenpin bowling championship at Green Valley in Pasig. Also today in 1994, Juan Miguel Rocha shot a 72 to capture the fourth and final slot in the Philippine team that competed in the 1994 World Amateur Championship at the Manila Southwoods Masters course.

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Alejo: Barrios way ahead

By June Navarro

SONNY Barrios, the PBA executive director, is the leading candidate in the league's search for the next commissioner.

Thus said PBA Chair Francisco "Butch" Alejo.

"As far as experience in running the affairs of the 27-year-old league is concerned, he is way ahead," said Alejo, reacting to an INQUIRER exclusive appearing here on Tuesday.

The exclusive showed Barrios as the logical choice of a convenor group to select the next commissioner of Asia's first play-for-pay league.

The 54-year-old Barrios has been endorsed no less by incumbent Commissioner Jun Bernardino, who is retiring in December.

Another strong Barrios supporter is former Commissioner Rudy Salud.

"Sonny (Barrios) definitely has the advantage in experience. He has served under the watch of former PBA Commissioners Salud and Bernardino, making him ripe enough for the job," Alejo said.

Alejo, however, cautioned that the PBA executive committee, whose task is to formulate a selection process for the search, has yet to narrow down its list of qualified individuals.

Alejo sits as chair of the executive committee with Ginebra San Miguel's Jun Cabalan (vice chair) and treasurer Angelito Alvarez of Federal Express-Airfreight 2100 acting as his members.

The executive committee has the authority to implement the selection process and recommend the worthy candidates to the eight-man board.

"We are even thinking of adding two more names in the list before scrutinizing the resumes of each candidate," said Alejo.

Besides Barrios, Shell's Rey Gamboa, former RFM executive Elmer Yanga and a lawyer-sportscaster head the short list of candidates, according to Alejo.

Alejo said the PBA Board of Governors would size up the strength and weaknesses of each aspirant and select "the most qualified candidate."

"It's like pitting the skills of one candidate against the other. Whoever comes out with the strongest credentials based on the requirements set by the board will be the next commissioner," added Alejo.

According to Alejo, the next commissioner should possess integrity, have strong managerial and marketing skills, an unwavering passion for sports and the special ability to deal with the public, especially the media.

"After weighing the pros and cons, the board will pick the best candidate and subject the chosen one to a panel interview," said Alejo.

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■ Fresnedi blows top on PNCC work delay /24

■ Revamp looms in CPD /A24

MMDA gives vendors 30 days to leave sidewalks, streets

By Leila B. Salaverria

All this vendor can do is shout curses at MMDA chair Bayani Fernando.

MIKE ALQUINTO

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Fernando Bayani yesterday gave vendors 30 days to vacate the sidewalks and side streets even as he warned barangay officials that he would also demolish barangay halls built on the sidewalks.

Fernando yesterday also refused to hold a dialogue with the vendors, who had staged a protest against the clearing operations, in front of the MMDA office in Makati.

But the vendors have gained the support of Iloilo Rep. Augusto "Buboy" Syjuco who had joined the vendors in their "vendor's power" protest.

"I am a sympathizer," Syjuco said, addressing the vendors. "I will never leave their side."

Syjuco yesterday also met with Fernando and asked him to hold a dialogue with the vendors.

But Fernando refused to budge, and said he would continue with the clearing operations. He said protesters should go to congress if they want to change the law.

Outraged at Fernando's announcement, which was relayed by Syjuco, protesters from the Metro Manila Vendors' Alliance (MMVA) threatened to go to Malacañang to ask for Fernando's ouster.

"Fernando should be assigned to the BIR so he would just go after the rich and the tax evaders instead of going after the poor," Wilson Fortaleza of Sanlakas said.

He said that instead of asking the vendors to leave the sidewalks in 30 days, Fernando should step down from the MMDA in 30 days.

Syjuco joined about 150 protesters yesterday and defended the sidewalk vendors' cause.

"Most of the sidewalk vendors are not lawbreakers," he said. "What they are doing is legal, they have permits and pay a fee to officials."

He also said that implementing rules and regulations for sidewalk vendors were drawn up during Fidel Ramos' term as president, and that these were being implemented during the term of president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. He also voiced out his plan to allot certain days for vendors to ply their trade on the sidewalks.

But Fernando shot down all these.

"I only know one law. That is the one where commerce is banned on the sidewalks," he told reporters yesterday.

He added that protesting vendors should instead go to congress if they want to continue to remain on the sidewalks. He has earlier said that local officials could not issue permits for sidewalk vendors because that is illegal.

"If the vendors want to change the law, it's only congress who can do that," Fernando said. "I can't compromise the law or the welfare of the majority."

But Syjuco maintained that there should be a compromise between the vendors and the MMDA.

"There should be a concentrated effort from both parties to come together... and afford solutions or a compromise," he said, calling the situation a standoff between "an irresistible force and an immovable object."

Both Syjuco and Fernando emerged all smiles from their meeting yesterday, putting their arms around each other's shoulders and shaking hands in front of photographers despite their admission that no compromise was reached.

Syjuco also told reporters that 17 other members of the house had agreed to support his resolution calling for an investigation of Fernando's actions as MMDA chair. Among the representatives Syjuco named were Makati Rep. Teddy Locsin, Caloocan Representatives Edgar Erice and Enrico Echeverri, Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, Bayan Muna Representatives Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon and Iloilo City Rep. Rolex Suplico.

Still, Fernando said he had no reason to end his campaign against sidewalk vendors.

"I have no reason to blink. I can see that people are demanding change. In the end, people will judge. I have said my piece. All that is needed now is the vote of the people," he said.

Fernando also told barangay officials whose barangay halls are on the sidewalks to demolish these structures.

"You should just rent apartments," he said. "They would be suited for your needs. It even has proper bathrooms that you could use."

Concrete posts and signboards showing the names of barangay officials and *kagawads* should also be removed from sidewalks because they are barring the way of pedestrians, Fernando said.

The roofs of establishments would be a better alternative for these signs, he added.

Fernando also said that if barangay officials do not demolish their offices on the sidewalks, MMDA personnel would do the job for them.

Fernando has earlier said that all obstructions on the sidewalks, including *carinderias*, flower boxes, gates, posts and even trees have to be removed.

Go suspect in a foiled jailbreak

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER a week in prison, the suspect in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go tried to escape from the Western Police District headquarters jail on Monday night, according to another inmate who helped in the escape attempt.

But the escape of suspect Victor Macaldo was foiled and his fellow inmates beat him up, said inmate Romeo Valenzuela, who admitted that he tried to saw off the iron bar of the jail.

Macaldo, 27, of Block 8, Lot 38, Phase 2 Mary Homes Subd. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, denied that he tried to escape.

WPD Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong relieved jail warden Insp. Juanito Dizon for the attempted jailbreak.

Valenzuela, 22, also pointed to Macaldo as the one who planned the escape.

He said Macaldo gave him the five-inch blade he used to saw the iron bar about 8 p.m. on Monday.

One of the iron bars on the prison window above San Marcelino Street had been nearly sawn off.

Valenzuela said Macaldo's sister had smuggled the blade into the jail. He said that when Macaldo's sister visited, the suspect told her to come back with the blade.

The police admitted that no one is assigned to bodily search female visitors of the prisoners.

Valenzuela, who is in jail for car theft, said he had tried to saw off the iron bars while hiding behind garments hanging on a clothesline.

Inmates use that portion of the jail for drying laundry and smoking cigarettes.

Another inmate, Abdul Bensamin, informed the police about the escape attempt. Valenzuela then confessed that Macaldo made him do it.

But Macaldo said the other inmates woke him up from his sleep, accused him of masterminding the attempted jailbreak, and then beat him up.

He also denied that he knew Valenzuela, whom he said was jailed in another prison cell.

Macaldo's mother Lucita, 54, yesterday said that she fears for her son's life and asked that he should be transferred to a solitary cell.

Macaldo was charged for the murder of Go in Binondo, Manila on August 10. Police also filed robbery with homicide charges and two frustrated homicide cases against Macaldo for the robbery of a Caltex gasoline station in Sta. Mesa two months ago.

Macaldo has also been linked to robberies and killings in San Pablo City, Las Pinas, Sucat, and in Tayuman, Manila.

Dichaves kidnapper sentenced to 3 terms of life imprisonment

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court yesterday sentenced a businessman to three terms of life imprisonment for abducting two sons of businessman Jepson Dichaves and their nanny nine years ago.

The boys' father is the brother of Jaime Dichaves, a crony of ousted President Estrada.

Judge Edelwina Catubig-Pastoral of the Manila RTC Branch 18 found Ernesto Uyboco, 58, guilty beyond reasonable doubt of kidnap for ransom.

The other accused, retired military colonel Wilfredo Macias, died of multiple organ failure last July 25, 2002 at the Veterans Memorial Hospital. He and Uyboco were detained at the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Taguig during the trial.

The two boys, Jeson Kevin and Jeson

Kirby, then 5 and 2 years old, and their nanny Nimfa Celis, 34, were released after the boys' father Jepson paid the suspects P1.5 million in cash, jewelry and a Colt 45 pistol.

The two boys and their nanny were on board the family pickup traveling on Bilibid Viejo Street when they were kidnapped on Dec. 20, 1993.

Celiz identified Uyboco and Macias as the ones who called up the Dichaves residence to negotiate for ransom. She said they even gave her the phone so she could talk to her employers.

Members of then Presidential Anti-Crime Commission arrested Uyboco and Macias.

In convicting Uyboco, the court credited the positive identification of Uyboco by Feliz, Jepson and the owner of the Merville house where the victims were brought. The judge said their testimony were "candid, straightforward, positive, convincing and credible."

Judge Pastoral also cited the defense's inability to disprove the testimony of the policemen who monitored the payoff and took pictures of Uyboco when he picked the ransom. He said Uyboco's claim that he was the "intermediary" between Jespon and the kidnappers "appears to be concoction of facts" and an "afterthought."

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431 Remedios St. Malate — MOODZ HEARTBEAT — NO ENTRANCE FEE TEL. 525.1474
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Woman cop accuses QC station chief of harassment

By Agnes E. Donato

A CENTRAL Police District station commander has been accused of sexually harassing a woman police aide several times.

The 40-year-old police aide on Monday filed the complaint against her superior, Supt. Guillermo Cabuenas, commander of CPD Station 9 in Quirino, Quezon City.

In a complaint she filed with the QC prosecutor's office, the policewoman claimed that Cabuenas would "intentionally touch my buttocks" every time he called her to run an errand for him.

"At times, he (would) hold my hand and, with lewd design, finger my palm with his finger," she said.

But on Aug. 31, while she was working in the computer room of the police headquarters at around 11 a.m., the station commander approached her and reportedly asked her what time she would be going home.

He then reportedly gave the woman P30 for her fare.

"But as soon as I took the money, he suddenly embraced me from behind and mashed my left breast," she claimed.

She added that Cabuenas also told her that he had been lusting for her for a long time. She said this prompted her to yell at the officer: "You're so vulgar, sir!"

The complainant said she decided to file charges against Cabuenas because she felt she had to protect her dignity.

Fresnedi blows top over PNCC work delay

By Christian Esguerra

AN ANGRY Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi has ordered the resumption of the citywide truck ban to pressure the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) to speed up the rehabilitation of the shaky Alabang viaduct.

The ban took effect on Monday last week and will run until the PNCC has fulfilled its commitment to repair the viaduct and widen the national road located under the elevated structure, said Vice Mayor Jo-Jason Alcaraz.

More than a month ago, PNCC Chair Luis Sison met with representatives of the Muntinlupa government to draw up a rehabilitation plan for the viaduct amid fears that the 24-year-old structure would collapse soon.

Prior to the meeting, the PNCC prohibited trucks weighing 20 tons and above from using the viaduct thereby resulting in heavy traffic congestion at the Alabang interchange.

To ease up traffic, the city government banned trucks from using the major roads from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. The ban drew heavy opposition from the Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines.

Alacaraz said Muntinlupa agreed to suspend the truck ban since the PNCC promised to start the rehabilitation project on Aug. 1.

The plan, he said, included the widening of the Alabang interchange and the construction of two additional lanes at the viaduct.

STILL LIFE
A woman is shown resting her back on the bronze statue of the late Arsenio Lacson, former mayor of Manila, which is perched on a bench overlooking Manila Bay.

ERIK ARAZAS

Revamp looms in CPD

By Alcuin Papa

A REVAMP appears to be in the offing at the Central Police District in Camp Karingal.

Policemen based at the CPD headquarters told the INQUIRER that the district director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, is due to be replaced sometime this week.

According to the police sources, Tor will be replaced by Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, former chief of the CPD's Criminal Investigation Division.

The sources said the changing of the guard is in line with the national police's policy to periodically reshuffle commands.

Tor is due to be transferred to the Bicol Region as regional director, sources said.

Already, the grandstand of Camp Karingal is being spruced up for the anticipated turnover ceremonies anytime.

Yesterday, Tor met with his division heads also in anticipation of the turnover.

CPD investigators have expressed their satisfaction over news of Castro's reported appointment. They described Castro as a veteran who understood the needs of the district.

On the other hand, National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said the change in command is not final, saying the order has yet to be handed down from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

"I have heard of the move, but there is no word yet from (Camp) Crame," Velasco said.

The order for the transfer, according to Velasco, will have to come from the office of Director Virtus Gil of the PNP's Directorate for Personnel and Management.

Sources in Camp Crame said that commanders of the other districts and police offices will also be reshuffled soon as part of the PNP's movement of officers.

They added that President Macapagal-Arroyo has already approved Tor's transfer, but PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane has yet to announce the reshuffle.

Nieves Epistola, 76

NIEVES Benito Epistola, professor emeritus of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines Diliman, board member of the Philippine Center of International P. E. N. (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists and Novelists), and spiritual mother to many artists and writers, died on Sept. 10. She was 76.

The body lies in state at the Delaney Hall, Church of the Holy Sacrifice in the UP Diliman campus, Quezon City.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Silvino Epistola, and sisters Odette Alcantara, Lina Permalino, Anita Reyes, Arline Adeva and Norma del Mundo.

Cremation will follow after the 2 p.m. Mass on Sept. 15 at the Holy Sacrifice church.

Drunken man shows off in Tondo creek, drowns

By Philip Tubeza

LODRING Rana, 33, was drunk when he tried to show off his swimming prowess on Monday despite the heavy rain.

He jumped into a creek in Manila and was able to swim back to land despite the strong current.

He even got angry at the people who tried to "save" him.

But the second time Rana jumped in the creek, he drowned.

The body of the victim, a resident of Camarin, Caloocan City, was fished out of the creek in Tondo around lunchtime Monday, said SPO1 Steve Casimiro of the Western Police District's homicide section.

He said the victim was last seen alive at around 11 a.m. walking drunk along Estero de Sunog Apog and Hermosa Street in Gagalangin, Tondo.

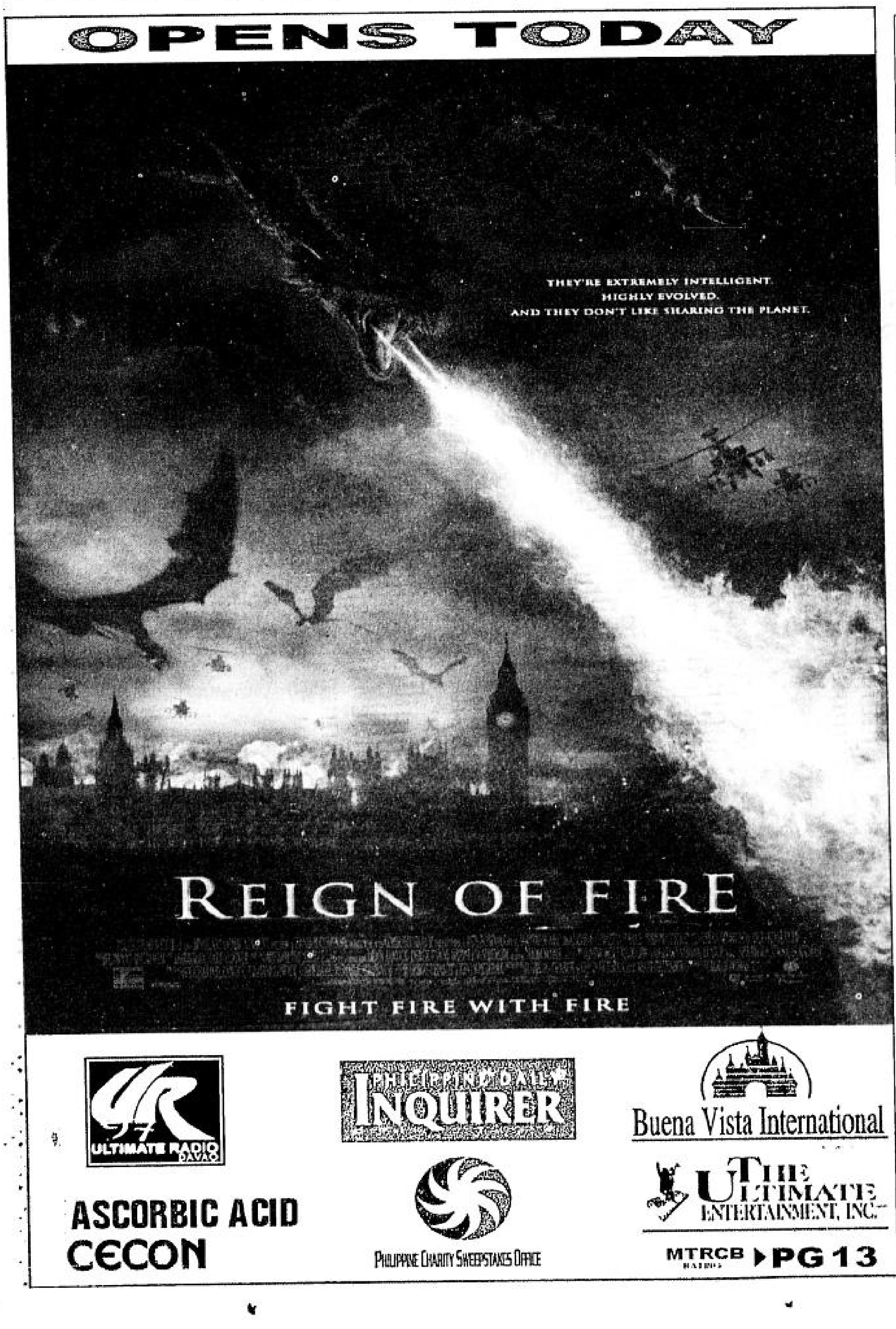
Rana used to live in that neighborhood, Casimiro said.

To the surprise of his former neighbors, Rana suddenly jumped into the creek, police said. The people even tried to help him by extending a piece of wood to Rana.

But they were more surprised when the victim got angry at them for trying to save him, Casimiro said.

To show off that he was a good swimmer, Rana again jumped into the creek. That decision proved fatal, Casimiro said.

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard recovered Rana's body hours later.



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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE/COMMERCIAL LAW (NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW)-Certificate of deposit-A certificate of deposit is defined as a written acknowledgment by a bank or banker of the receipt of a sum of money which the bank or banker promises to pay to the depositor, to the order of the depositor, or to some other person or his order, whereby the relation of debtor and creditor between the bank and the depositor is created. The principles governing other types of bank deposits are applicable to certificates of deposit, as are the rules governing promissory notes when they contain an unconditional promise to pay a sum certain in money absolutely. The principle that payment, in order to discharge a debt, must be made to someone authorized to receive it is applicable to the payment of certificates of deposit. Thus, a bank will be protected in making payment to the holder of a certificate indorsed by the payee, unless it has notice of the invalidity of the indorsement or the holder's want of title. A bank acts as its peril when it pays deposits evidenced by a certificate of deposit, without its production and surrender after proper indorsement. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Far East Bank and Trust Company v. Querimit, G.R. Nos. 148582, January 16, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 11, 2002
23nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 7:25-31
Gospel: Lk 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said,

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours."

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

Prayer also enables one to transcend reversals of life and see where true happiness lies. Also on the "plain" after coming down from a whole night of prayer, Luke makes Jesus pronounce the beatitudes and woes. It is wrong to see the message of Jesus in these reversals to be "pie in the sky." On the contrary, the reign of God is already here! For, God in Jesus the Christ has clearly demonstrated the divine predilection for the poor whose security is in God alone and not in anyone or in anything else. And happy, indeed, are the disciples who follow Jesus, the Prophet, who no matter what the dominant and privileged would do to him, went on proclaiming and doing the justice and peace of God to show that the reign is truly here and now.

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Shipping exec denies he fleeced S. Korean

A SHIPPING company executive implicated in an extortion case, denied he tried to fleece a South Korean of P1.7 million.

Lou Atienza, president of Euro-Asiatic Shipping Inc., was arrested last month after South Korean Jay SJ Rhim complained to the National Bureau of Investigation about the extortion attempt.

But Atienza, in a letter to the INQUIRER, said the complainant in fact owed him P1.7 million.

"Jay SJ Rhim was scheduled to pay me P200,000 on the day (of the arrest) as we earlier agreed upon, a partial amount of P1.7 million in cash advances and loans he has accumulated from me," Atienza said.

"Apparently, Mr. Rhim jumped the gun on me and, with malicious intent, reported to the NBI that I was 'extorting' money from him."

Atienza said Rhim "did what he did to avoid meeting his obligations and paying our office what was rightfully due to us."

He said no case had been filed against him, but according to lawyer Edmund Arugay of the NBI, the bureau has already filed extortion charges against Atienza.

Philip Tubeza

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Dashing maturity and endearing precocity on 'Mel and Jay'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"MEL and Jay" had an interesting episode last Sunday, on stars involved in May-December romances. The big come-on was **Hajji Alejandro** and his lady love for more than four years now, who is two decades his junior.

Age didn't seem to play a big part in the union because Hajji is pretty fit, and his partner thinks the world of him—in fact, she described him as "the air I breathe."

That breathless, no, breathy—statement from the young woman scored *pogi* points for Hajji, who was the envy of all mature male viewers (and co-host **Jay Sonza**), who wished that they too could still sweep a much younger woman off her feet.

It turned out, however, that the biggest hit of the evening was the *youngest* person on-camera: **Niño Muhlach's** perky son. Niño was guesting with his wife, his partner in their not-quite May-December (May-September?) marriage and they were holding forth quite well—but their little boy, who looked like he was only one year old, started to upstage them. In fact, he upstaged everybody else on the program!

The tyke looked alert and with-it, and was very relaxed and natural in front of the TV cameras. Best of all, he was friendly, outgoing, and looked like he was thoroughly enjoying himself.

The little boy didn't say anything, but he reminded viewers of Niño himself, when he first appeared on TV at the precocious age of three, and won the country's collective heart with his cute antics and sagacious ad-libs.

Niño's kid is much younger than three, but he's already evincing some of his dad's endearing qualities. In time (once he starts talking!), he could become a sensation in his own right.

All in good time, of course. Let's not rush him, let him enjoy his being a kid away from the lights and cameras of show business.

But, if and when the spirit naturally moves him, as it did in the case of Niño, **Snooky Serna** and **Aiza Seguerra** when they were only three years old, what's to stop him from winning the nation's heart in his own, unique, precocious way?

Feedback

FROM **Bernadette Sembrano**, host of Channel 7's "Wish Ko Lang": "In your write-ups on our show, you suggested that we go beyond momentary wish fulfillment in order to make a lasting impact on the lives of our featured case studies. You also encouraged us to extend economic assistance to those featured.

"Purely economic assistance, however, is something we have chosen not to give. You will not see us handing out houses, cars or anything of plainly materialistic value.

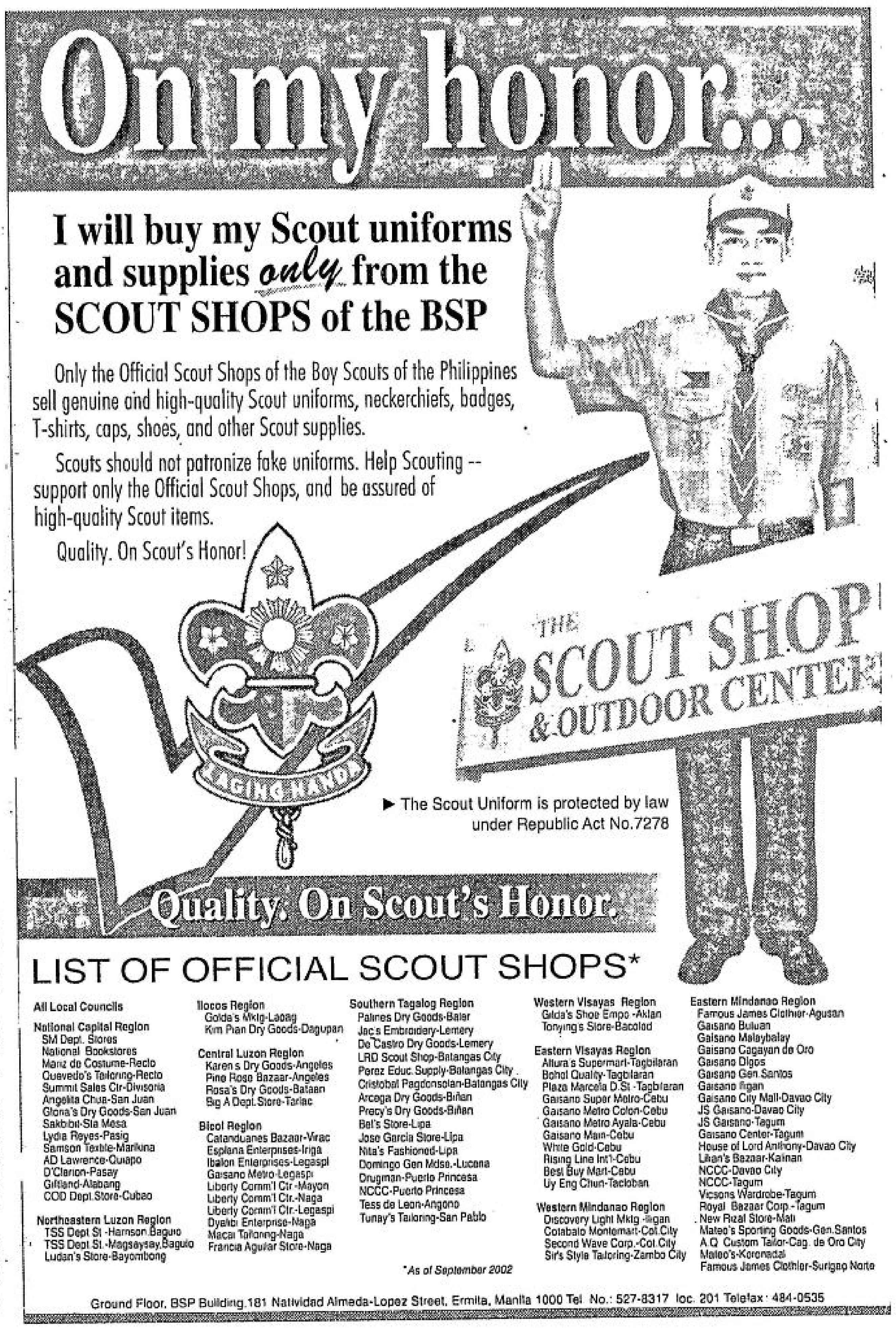
We do not promise a life-changing experience for our chosen case studies. We don't believe a television show should 'play God' in such a way.

"We would like to bring families and estranged loved ones together through our show. We want to feature modern-day heroes whose values serve as a good example to viewers. We want to grant wishes that give people hope, joy and inspiration.

"We sometimes help our featured case studies pursue their livelihood, but we do not want to give them sources of livelihood, lock, stock and barrel.

"Recently, 'Wish' in fact granted a young man's dying wish: that there be a running water in their home, so his younger sister would not have to repeatedly carry buckets of water to and from a distant artesian well. We were able to grant that wish—in cooperation with the water district in Bulacan.

"Such a wish will surely be of lasting value to the family. But again, it is a means to an end. Having running water will help the family help itself, but it is not the same as a cash prize."



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Samson Textile-Marikina
AD Lawrence-Quiapo
D'Clarion-Pasay
Giftland-Alabang
COD Dept.Store-Cubao

Northeastern Luzon Region
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TSS Dept St.-Magsaysay Baguio
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Dyehbi Enterprise-Naga
Macai Tailoring-Naga
Francia Aguilar Store-Naga

Southern Tagalog Region
Palines Dry Goods-Baler
Jac's Embroidery-Lemery
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LRD Scout Shop-Batangas City
Perez Educ. Supply-Batangas City
Cristobal Pagdonsolan-Batangas City
Arcega Dry Goods-Biñan
Precy's Dry Goods-Biñan
Bel's Store-Lipa
Jose Garcia Store-Lipa
Nita's Fashioned-Lipa
Domingo Gen Mdse.-Lucena
Drugman-Puerto Princesa
NCCC-Puerto Princesa
Tess de Leon-Angono
Tunay's Tailoring-San Pablo

Western Visayas Region
Gilda's Shoe Empo.-Aklan
Tonying's Store-Bacolod

Eastern Visayas Region
Allura's Supermart-Tagbilaran
Bohol Quality-Tagbilaran
Plaza Marcela D.St.-Tagbilaran
Gaisano Super Metro-Cebu
Gaisano Metro Colon-Cebu
Gaisano Metro Ayala-Cebu
Gaisano Main-Cebu
White Gold-Cebu
Rising Line Int'l-Cebu
Best Buy Mart-Cebu
Uy Eng Chun-Tacloban

Western Mindanao Region
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Lilian's Bazaar-Kalnan
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Royal Bazaar Corp.-Tagum
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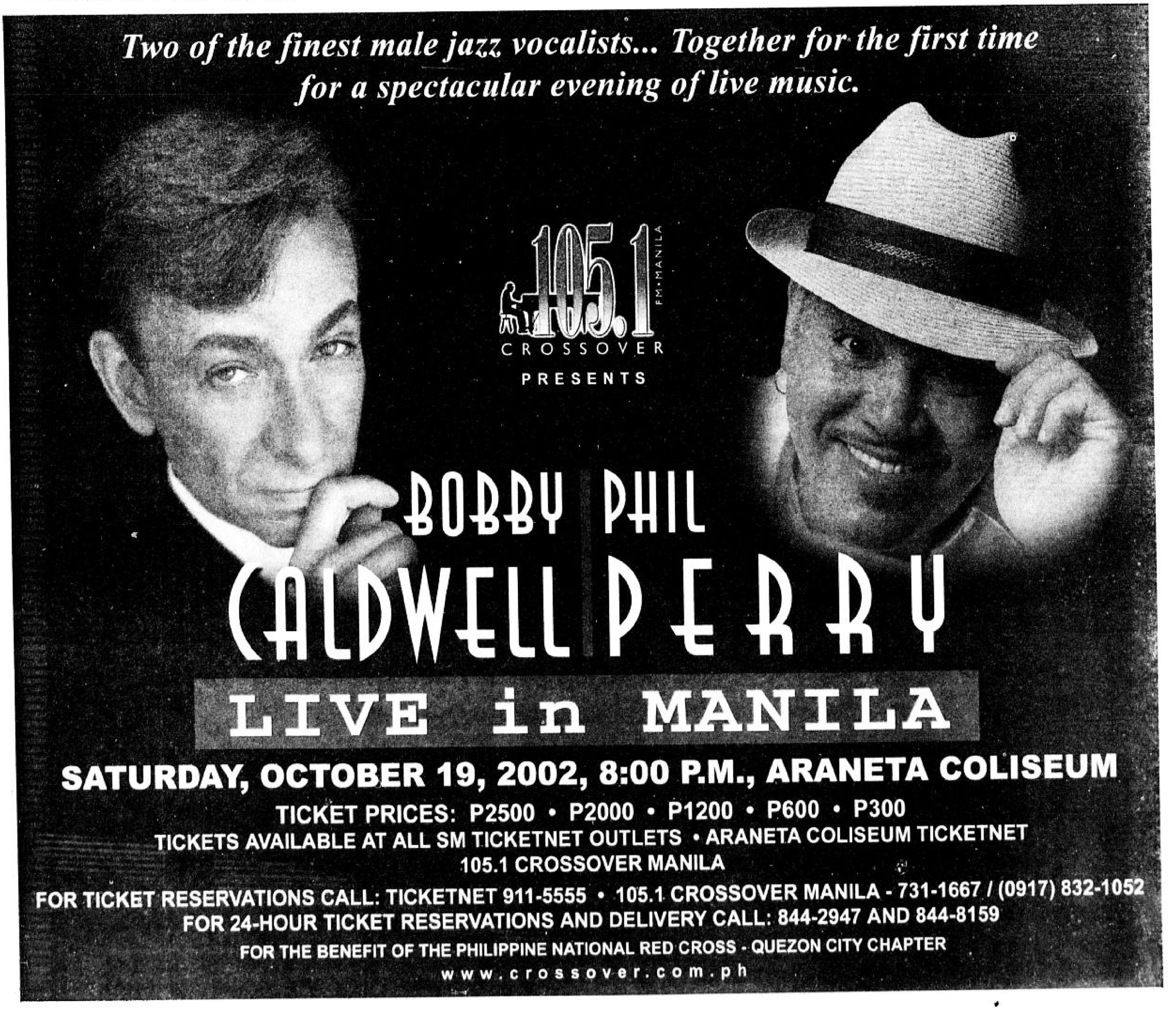

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Dong Puno learns his lessons, goes back to TV

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

RETURNING to a TV network whose news department he used to head was a challenge for lawyer Dong Puno, erstwhile senior vice president for news and current affairs of ABS-CBN.

Dong left the broadcast media two years ago to join government service and later ran for senator. But he says there's nothing like returning to TV and hosting your own program.

"It was not easy to leave broadcasting and go to government service," says Dong, who served as press secretary for nine months during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I had withdrawal symptoms when I left TV in April 2000. I had been doing it for 16 years and then I abruptly stopped. When I sat on the chair again during our first taping day, I said, 'This feels good.' I emerged a little more knowledgeable and I realized where I belong."

He says he doesn't regret his decisions. "It was a choice to leave," he maintains. "I gave it a shot so no one could say I didn't. Viewing the government from the inside gave me a lot of insight and knowledge which I can use now that I'm back in media. I'm happier trying to explore the depths and varieties of opinion."

His failed political bid was also a learning experience for him.

"I felt at that time there were certain things I couldn't get away from because the consequences would be great," he says. "I was able to go around the country and talk to people of all levels. I'm not trying to over-dramatize it. Losing sucks. But that was the biggest education for me. There's really a lot to do for this country."

Dong brings back his own style of intelligent discussion on "Dong Puno Nightly," ABS-CBN's newest current affairs program. The 30-minute show airs at 11:30 p.m. before "Martin @ Late Night."

"The nightly current affairs programs have been shortened to 30 minutes," Dong offers. "I'd like to develop the program and make it succeed. I want to lend perspective to the issues and clarify things. I'll try to make the program more fast-paced and more substantive."

Correspondents Ed Lingao and Jade Lopez join Dong in the show and start the evening's discussions with in-depth reports designed to give the viewer an overview of the topics to be featured.

Dong's skills as a perceptive interviewer and astute political analyst have long been proven in the legal arena, print and TV media.

Dong received his bachelor of laws degree from the Ateneo de Manila University's College of Law and his master of laws from the Harvard Law School. Whether he's in the media or government service, Dong never abandoned his legal profession.

He points out that he had ended all his political affiliations before returning to ABS-CBN to host a new current affairs program.

"It has been a very amicable separation and my party fully understood," he says. "I want to focus again on my media career. I'm comfortable where I am now."

Despite being away from TV for nearly two years, Dong does not find a daily show a tough task. In the mid-'90s, he used to host the early evening news program, "Focus," on RPN 9.

"But technology then was very different," Dong recalls. "The microwaves were very unreliable. The minute it rained, you subsequently lost the connection with PLDT so you had to hook up again. Technology has improved a lot."

PUNO. "I realized where I belong."

Birthday greetings

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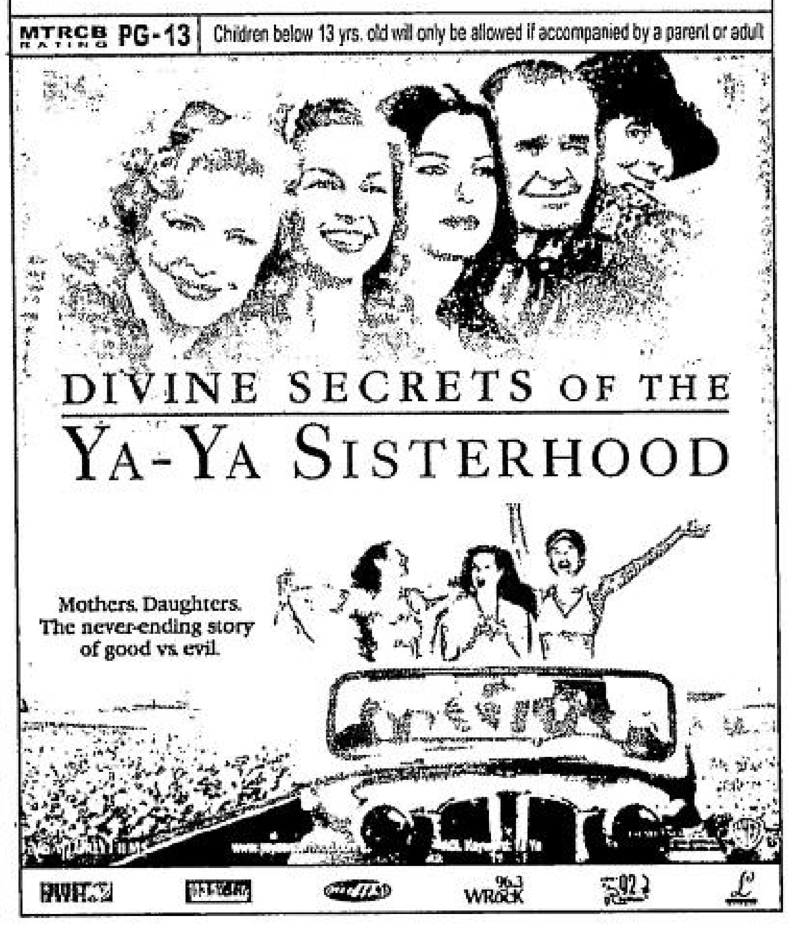

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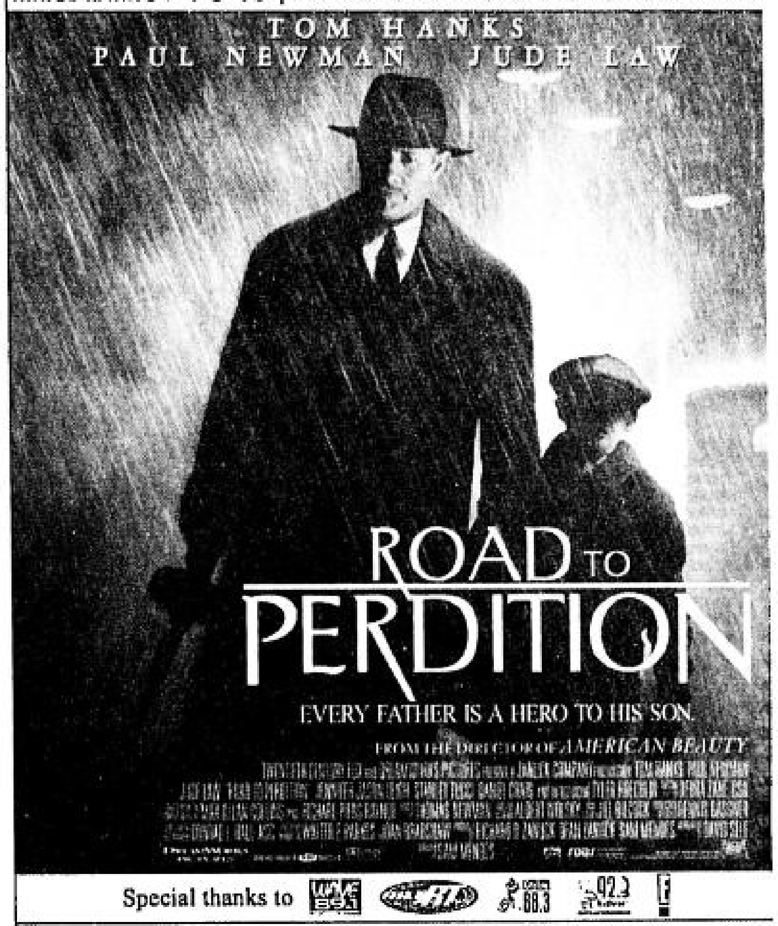

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NOKIA AYALA CINEMAS INQUIRER

'ROAD TO PERDITION'

Another American beauty

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit,
Contributor

REVIEW

THE comics medium has been a rich source of film subjects, and they're not limited to tights-wearing super-adventurers.

"Road to Perdition" was originally a graphic novel from DC Comics' imprint Paradox Press, written by "Dick Tracy" comic strip writer Max Allan Collins. It was a 1930s gangster drama focusing on an assassin and his young son on a mission of revenge and retribution. The story was greatly inspired and influenced by a Japanese comic book series, "Lone Wolf and Cub," that featured a 17th century father and son and their death-dealing exploits.

Both lead characters from "Lone Wolf and Cub" and "Road to Perdition" are executioners, whose innocent families get caught in the crossfire of feuds gone terribly wrong. In "Lone Wolf,", the father, Itti Ogami, cuts a swath through his enemies with the help of his 3-year-old son Daigoro whose baby carriage doubles as a sword and spear cache.

Contradictions

In "Road," Mike Sullivan (Tom Hanks) stages daylight robberies, with Michael Jr. (Tyler Hoechlin) helping out as the getaway driver. Set in Depression-era Chicago, the gorgeous-looking film is an emotional journey that explores the often-turbulent relationships between father and sons.

The elder Sullivan, who's treated like blood kin by local mob boss John Rooney (played by the still very charismatic Paul Newman), breaks away from his adoptive father's criminal syndicate because of circumstances that involve the death of his wife and one of his sons. Michael Jr., meanwhile, gets a crash course in becoming his father's accomplice in carefully calculated heists.

As can be expected, Sam Mendes' second directorial effort manifests a scenic, moody, desolate atmosphere that's rife with contradictions.

The lead character is a major contradiction: The coldblooded killer actually loves his family. Mike Sullivan's hardened disrespect for life is a job, and he's neither gruff nor brutal when he's with his family.

Searing performance

It's definitely not a typical Tom Hanks role, but the man can play the most unseemly of roles and get away with it. Here, his stoic hit man's almost world-weary attitude is conflicted by the hope that his son will become a better man than he is. His performance is searing, and the audience roots for his antihero's desire to inflict biblical vengeance on those who wronged him.

Paul Newman's majestic crime lord is also torn with dilemmas. He's confronted with the difficult choice of choosing between his real and adoptive sons in a bitter rivalry. Newman is as sympathetic as ever, especially in a scene where he solemnly plays an Irish piece on the piano with Hanks.

Feeling for characters

One can't help but be drawn into the unfolding drama because the complicated, unenviable relationships are volatile. The principles and codes of honor of organized crime are unwritten and constantly shifting, becoming even more interesting when personal stakes are involved.

Newman, Hanks, and Hoechlin play dignified personas that form a tragic family tree. But everything's fleshed out so subtly and forcefully that it doesn't devolve into soap opera hell. You feel for the characters, period.

Thespic wonders Stanley Tucci and Jennifer Jason Leigh also play short, almost perfunctory roles that are nevertheless rightly cast and ably portrayed. The demented "photographer of the dead," Harlan Maguire, is a sparky character, thanks to Jude Law and his rotting fake teeth and unclipped fingernails. His unblinking, bright eyes are especially frightful and thinly veil a dead soul and an authentic ruthlessness.

Good and bad

The mood, while very somber, is beautiful. Ironically, the chiaroscuro composition, or the sharp contrast of the lighting and the shading of the scenes, abstractly covers the grayness or ambiguity of the situations.

Sometimes, as the movie conveys, there isn't just good and bad. There are plenty of shades in between. And this particular winter season of 1931 just looks painfully enchanting. It would be amusing if the theme weren't so, well, sad.

The photography and the careful construction of imagery give a muted and subdued claustrophobia. Conrad L. Hall and Mendes are showing a familiar pattern with the similar layouts of dining room scenes here and in Mendes' earlier "American Beauty."

Another recurring technique is flowing blood on pristine, white surfaces. The visuals richly express the desperation of the Prohibition era, the period when the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks were banned in the US.

Oscar buzz

Conventional Hollywood thinking deems that a good film should be released near the end of the year to attract Oscar nominations. But good movies are good movies, and Hanks was nominated for his performance in Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" which was released mid-year four years ago. It's not uncommon for studios to re-release previously shown films anyway toward the start of campaigning season. "Road to Perdition" just screams "Oscar buzz"-- A-list actors, competent direction and screenplay, and a riveting musical score.

Like Robin Williams in recent months, it's not far-fetched to see Hanks play dark characters. We've seen way too much of his nicey-nicey personas anyway, and this has been a refreshing new pace for him so far. Plus, given the Academy's penchant for favoring tragic or misfit characters, it's safe to say that he can nab a nomination, at least.

Newman's a shoo-in for a supporting actor nomination, too.

As I was leaving the cozy, Galleria theater where the press screening was held, I thought about groundbreaking comic books like Alan Moore's "Watchmen" and "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" and their impending big screen translations. Comic books' sequential art form is brimming with ideas and powerful storytelling, and it's good to see that Hollywood is giving it the respect it deserves.

REFRESHING NEW PACE. Tom Hanks plays a dark character in "Road to Perdition."

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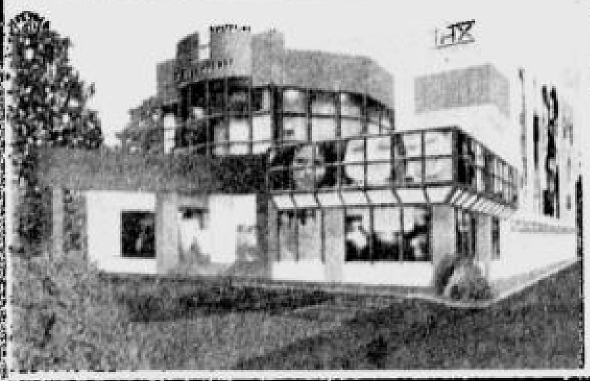

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1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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5 LAMAN
6 BOURNE IDENTITY
7 SIGNS
8 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/AUSTIN POWERS 3(PM)
10 REVELATION

Ermita 536-7809-12

1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 JOLOGS
4 REVELATION
5 LAMAN
6 SIMONE
7 DIVINE SECRETS...

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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 AUSTIN POWERS 3
4 BOURNE IDENTITY
5 SIMONE
6 LAMAN
7 SIGNS
8 JOLOGS

Novaliches 935-3229-30

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2 DIVINE SECRETS...
3 JOLOGS
4 BOURNE IDENTITY
5 SIGNS
6 SIMONE
7 LAMAN
8 REVELATION

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

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2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 LAMAN
4 DIVINE SECRETS...
5 JOLOGS
6 SIMONE

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1 SIGNS
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 JOLOGS
4 BOURNE IDENTITY
5 GAMITAN
6 BIGLANG LIKO

Iloilo 336-8077-78

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2 SIGNS
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 INSOMIA
5 LAMAN
6 SEX & ZEN

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Bulacan honors National Artist Gerry de Leon

FOR the pride he brought to the province of Bulacan, National Artist Gerry de Leon will be honored by the Barasoain Foundation in a mixed media presentation called "Manong Gerry: Buhay at Pelikula," until Sept. 15, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Nicanor Abelardo Theater, Capitol Compound Malolos Bulacan.

The presentation is in line with the celebration of "Linggo ng Bulacan," slated Sept. 9 to 15.

The tribute will show excerpts of De Leon's "Noli Me Tangere," to be acted out by Barasoain Kalinangan actors which include Cris Villanueva and Pablo Acopiado as Ibarra, Gibeth Villanueva as Maria Clara and Alex santos as Gerry de Leon. Arman Sta. Ana directs the script of Sonny Cristobal.

Sadly, only a few Bulacan youth know about the National Artist for Film. "This is the reason we are bringing him to the Bulakeños, especially now that local filmmaking is at an interesting stage," says Bulacan governor Josie Mendoza-dela Cruz. "We want to teach them the rich local film heritage that their province has and be proud of being a Bulakeño."

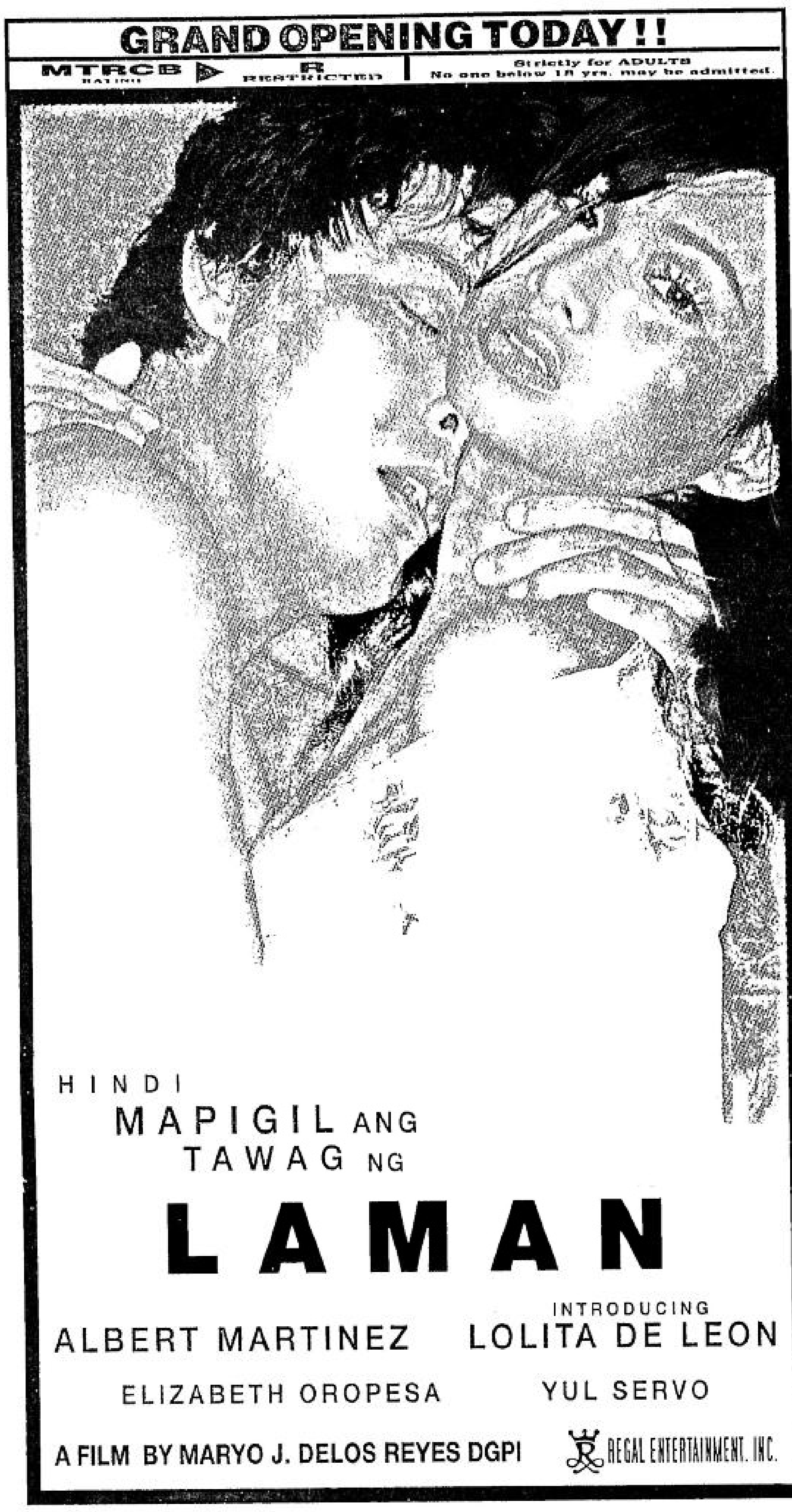
Born in san Miguel, Bulacan, De Leon was proclaimed Artista ng Bayan in 1982 to honor his prolific film career that spanned four decades of Filipino moviemaking. A physician who was born in San Miguel, Bulacan, de Leon was not able to resist the call of show business which ran in his blood, being a member of the illustrious Ilagan clan, members of which include his father playwright Hermogenes Ilagan, brother Tito Arevalo, nephew Robert Arevalo, the late actor Jay Ilagan.

Despite the limitations of a post-war film industry, De Leon succeeded in fashioning a number of film classics which were recognized both here and abroad.

Among his memorable achievements are his versions of Rizal's novels in films -- "Sisa," "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" and the classics "Daigdig ng mga Api," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Dyesebel," "Ang Sawa sa Lumang Simboryo" and "Banaue."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ITLOG / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	REIGN OF FIRE
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MAGINOO / MAGESTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LAMAN
B	REIGN OF FIRE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YAYA SISTERHOOD
CINEMA-2	REIGN OF FIRE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	BAKAT
CINEMA-7	DERAILED
CINEMA-8	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIVINE SECRETS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	SIMONE
CINEMA-14	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-15	SIGNS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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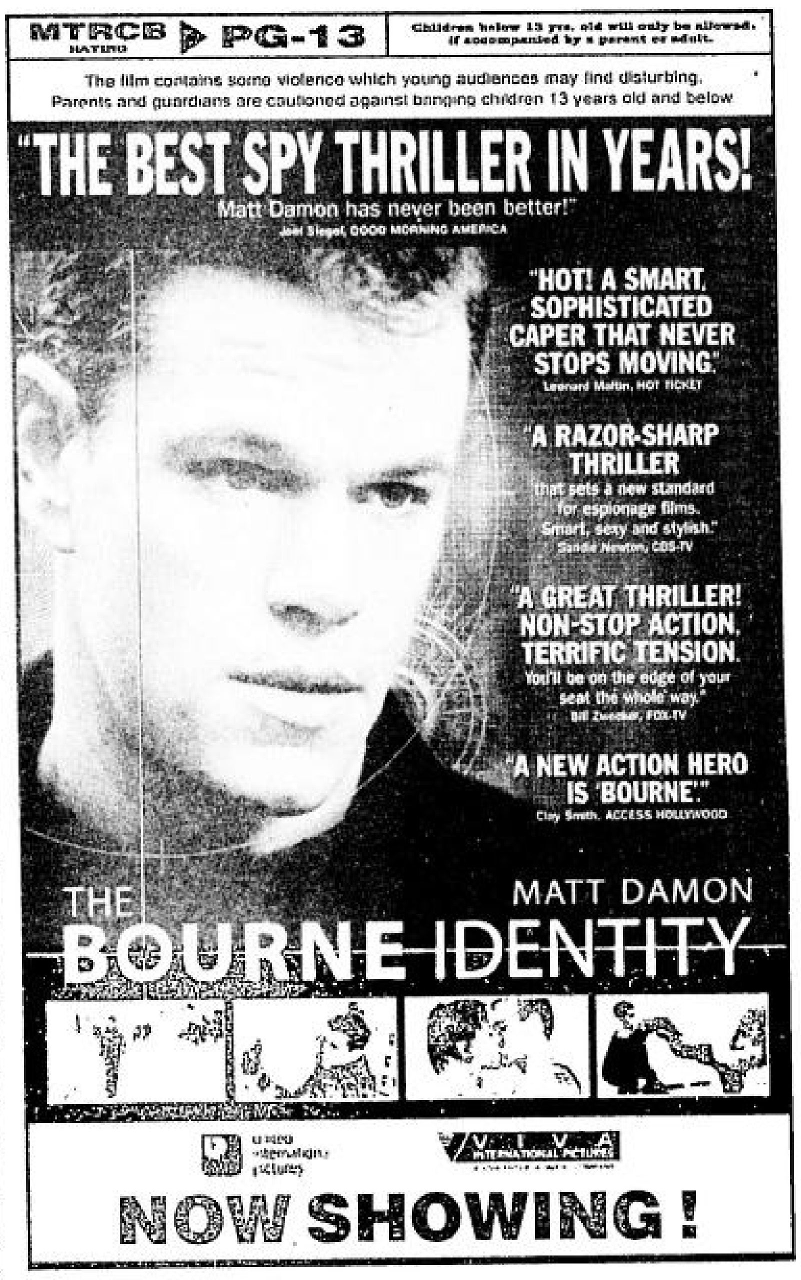
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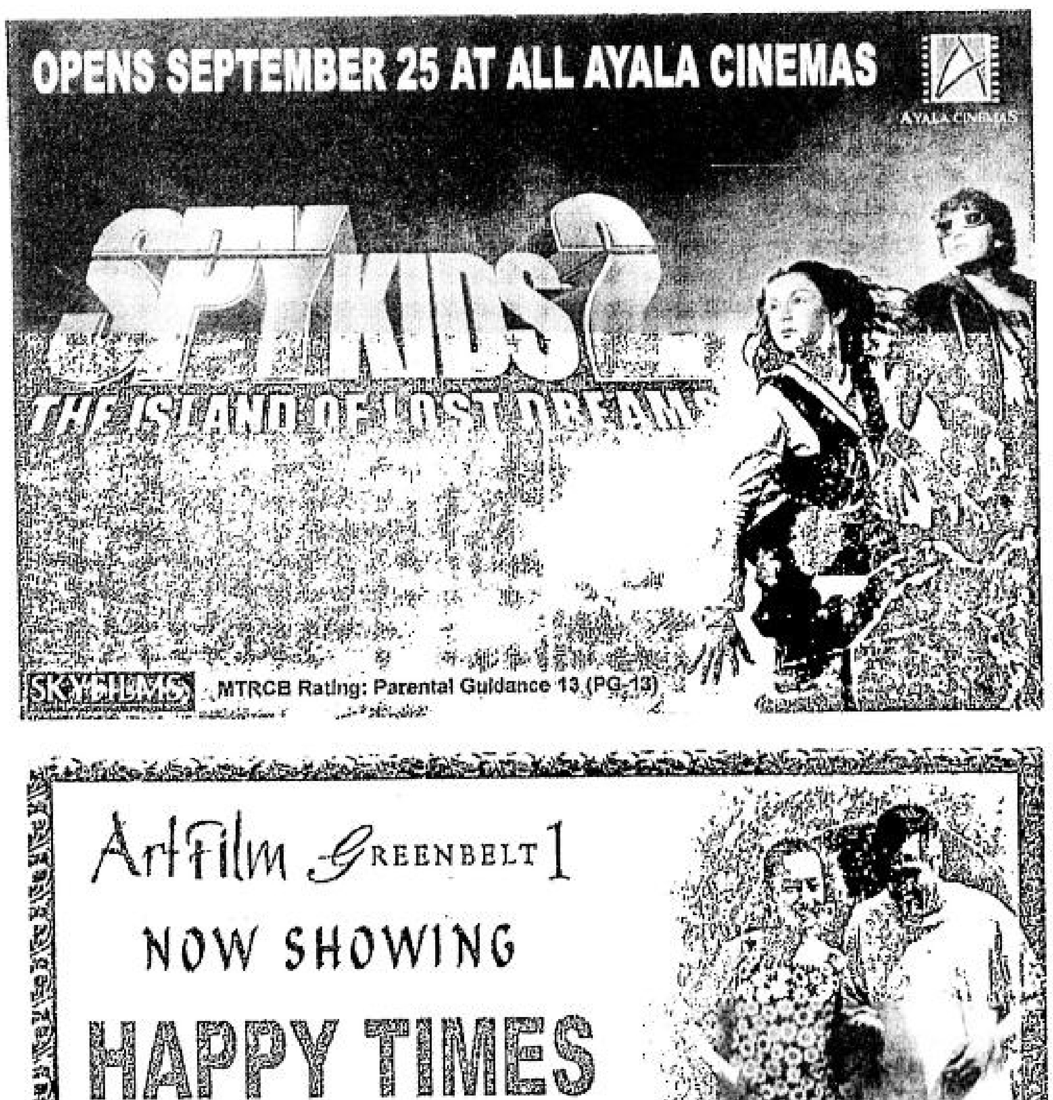
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The further we go into this century, the more serious the role the Internet plays in business. As geographical boundaries blur and a global community is formed in the internet, it is becoming increasingly important for corporations to be present in the cyber world. More and more companies are discovering that PLDT DSL is precisely that all-important vehicle that allows them to ride the Internet wave and flow with what is current.

SECURITY BANK CORPORATION is the first bank in the Philippines to use PLDT DSL technology and not just as a vital research and communication tool. It was the first to make it an integral component of a fully internet-based corporate cash management facility – the **Security DigiBanker**. This convenience allows both local and offshore clients to transfer funds, collect payments and process payrolls and checks – all with just a few mouse clicks.

With the complex and mission-critical nature of corporate banking transactions, it is crucial that the Security DigiBanker be able to deliver at lightning speed with round-the-clock system availability.

Manny Narciso and Daniel Yu, First Vice Presidents – the men behind **Security DigiBanker** and the bank's resident visionaries – considered it imperative that they find the fastest, most reliable, most accessible data communications solution on the Web, and that is PLDT DSL. Mr. Yu states, "We knew that DSL is the right direction to go, given our requirements."

"It is important to give [our clients] the right processing speed, and the right response time," adds Mr. Yu. With its big bandwidth, information passes through the PLDT DSL line faster than any DigiBanker client can ever imagine, no matter how many other clients are simultaneously logged on.

Today, barely 18 months since its launch, **Security Bank's DigiBanker** has already given the convenience of online fund management to 100 of the Philippines' [illegible] largest corporations. Mr. Narciso predicts that getting the other 1,900 to connect shouldn't be a problem.

DSL
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HEADSTRONG is a global consultancy firm that provides business services that help traditional businesses transform into digital businesses. It has offices in Europe, United States and the Asia Pacific, all of which [illegible] strong relationships with their clients through successful project [illegible]. It offers a wide range of services from strategy [illegible] solution implementation [illegible] application maintenance.

In [illegible] Philippines, [illegible] a global development center. Marie Zamora, Managing Director of Headstrong, said [illegible] developing [illegible] great deal of credibility [illegible] such as expertise [illegible] and technology [illegible] that is always thoroughly evaluated [illegible]," says Ms. Zamora. Hence, their acquisition of [illegible] DSL has served them well in providing [illegible] range of services that result [illegible] for their money.

Mr. Andrew Drake, Head of Research of Headstrong, believes that his group probably comprises the most intensive collection of Internet users in the Manila office. Faced with tasks such as heavy researching, transferring of large files and posting of materials in the website for both internal and external purposes, PLDT DSL has given them the advantage over other companies in terms of speed, reliability and accuracy. "With DSL, we now have the opportunity to manage our files of several hundreds of megabytes," says Mr. Drake.

"We're supporting a global organization, and that's a challenge in itself," says Ms. Zamora. [illegible] PLDT DSL [illegible] the operation [illegible] the client [illegible] reliability [illegible] performance."

[illegible]

Security Bank FVP [illegible] & FVP Manny [illegible]

Headstrong's Marie Zamora, Managing Director

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FirstPac wants MVP out of PLDT, MPC

INDICATORS

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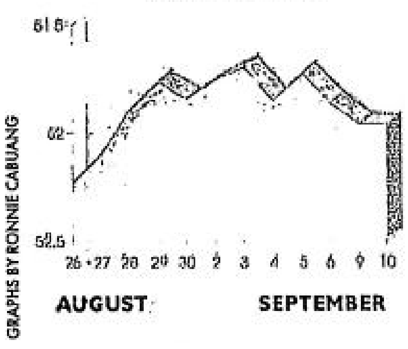
PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2002

¥119.12 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2002

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Sept. 9, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks tread water; investors seek new leads

STOCKS ended flat yesterday, with investors taking a breather after lightly accumulating selected counters over the past four days.

With recent positive economic news largely factored into the market, there were few leads to entice fresh interest.

Jitters over the looming anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States and a possible war in Iraq had also dampened sentiment, traders said.

"The market right now is just consolidating around current levels. It is waiting for a another catalyst to spur fresh interest," Asiasec Equities research head Oliver Plana said.

The main index ended up 0.13 of a point, or 0.01 percent, at 1,133.59 points, with 20 advancers, 19 decliners and 42 stocks unchanged.

Value turnover was a paltry P259.34 million, down from Monday's almost equally lackluster P284.23 million.

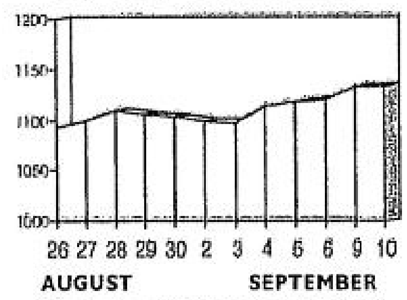
Gains in Ayala group large caps, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom Inc., largely accounted for the main index remaining just in positive territory.

BPI gained P1.50 to P46.5 on turnover of P32 million, while Globe gained P5 to P520.

Flagship holding firm Ayala Corp. fell 10 centavos to P5.30.

Ayala Land finished flat at P5.90. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong is set to boot out its executive chair Manuel V. Pangilinan as chief of both Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metro Pacific Corp. in a last-ditch attempt to quash staunch opposition to the $925-million deal between First Pacific and the Gokongwei group.

PLDT insiders yesterday admitted to the INQUIRER that Pangilinan was now aware of First Pacific's plan and was preparing his own course of action to challenge such a move.

Pangilinan's spokesman, however, denied the report as "malicious" and "patently false."

"It is a malicious and patently false rumor clearly designed to destroy the name and integrity of Mr. Pangilinan," Butch Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

The PLDT sources said Antoni Salim, son of Indonesian tycoon Soedono Salim and president of the Salim Group that controls First Pacific, was determined to relieve Pangilinan from his posts in PLDT and MPC as the "quarantine" imposed on Pangilinan seemed to be no longer enough to get the deal through by the Sept. 30 deadline. The sources said an official announcement would be made anytime in the next few days.

"MVP is himself preparing for this eventuality. Expect a protracted legal battle because he will insist that he is the rightful head," one of the sources said.

The sources said First Pacific had realized that it would not be able to consummate the deal that would cede control of PLDT and MPC's flagship unit Bonifacio Land Corp. to the joint venture with the Gokongwei group with MVP around.

Among those being considered to replace Pangilinan in PLDT and MPC are Napoleon Nazareno, incumbent president of Smart Communications Inc., and Ed Tortorocci, a First Pacific executive previously based in Hong Kong but was assigned to the Philippines to help manage MPC after the resignation of former corporate chief Ricardo Pascua, the sources disclosed.

PANGILINAN

The sources said that First Pacific decided it was time to exercise its prerogative and had started finalizing the grounds to support its move. It, however, was expecting a lot of obstacles along the way.

"They have to temper this (offensive against MVP) because MVP knows a lot about them," the source said.

Pangilinan, who was earlier eased out by First Pacific on matters concerning the Gokongwei deal, will likely keep his post as executive chair of First Pacific.

First Pacific and the Gokongweis signed on June 4 a deal to transfer the former's controlling 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4-percent stake in BLC to a $925-million joint venture company that will, in turn, be 67-percent controlled by the Gokongweis.

To date, however, the Gokongweis were being barred from conducting a due diligence audit on PLDT and BLC by the respective management of the two firms, both led by Pangilinan.

Pangilinan, in tandem with PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, has mapped out a $600-million strategy to foil the deal and force First Pacific to sell to him instead. Part of his strategy is to prevent the delivery of the 50.4-percent stake in BLC that was pledged by Metro Pacific to First Pacific to back a $105-million debt.

It was earlier reported that Pangilinan's group was finalizing a consortium to assume the $105 million in debt in order to prevent the foreclosure of the BLC stake by First Pacific. Metro Pacific earlier said the loan takeout strategy was making progress.

RP seeks extension of Aico up to 2010

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE government is pushing for an extension of the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) scheme up to 2010 and the granting of zero duty to participants to attract more foreign direct investments to the automotive assembly and parts manufacturing sector.

The Department of Trade and Industry has included the program extension and the granting of duty-free perks to Aico ventures in the strategy of the overhauled Motor Vehicle Development Program to attract more investments in the industry.

The DTI expressed confidence that by giving duty-free perks in an extended Aico program would enable the automotive industry to reduce its costs by getting duty-free access to parts and accessories produced in Asean countries.

The DTI said the Aico extension should likewise be beneficial to local automotive parts makers because it would allow them to export their output to other countries at zero duty.

The Aico is set to end in 2003 with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT), where duties on most goods traded in the region would have duties of no more than 5 percent.

The Aico, where most projects are in the automotive sector, was meant to be the precursor to the Afta-CEPT as it granted minimal duties of at least 5 percent to participating industries that build integrated manufacturing facilities in at least two Asean-member countries.

With the start of Afta-CEPT, the Asean Working Group on Industrial Cooperation is reviewing a proposal to extend the Aico up to 2010 (when Afta-CEPT rates are reduced to zero percent) and to cut perks to as low zero percent to make the program relevant and attractive to foreign investors. The Aico extension is part of the agenda of the Asean Economic Ministers meeting in Brunei this week.

The Philippines and five other Asean countries favor the granting of a zero-percent duty under the Aico program but Malaysia and Thailand wanted a 0 to 3 percent range. Myanmar and Vietnam favor the retention of the existing rates of 5 percent and below.

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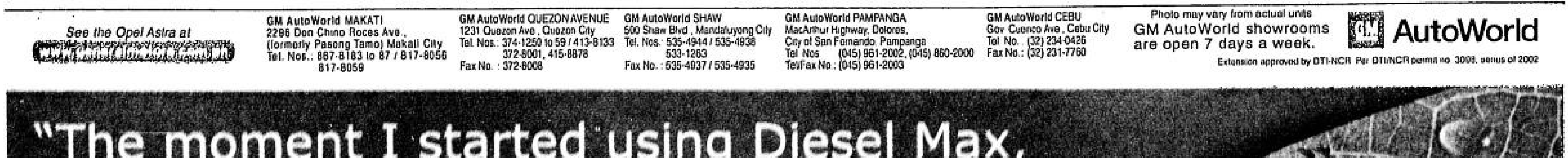

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RP seeks substantial share in $5-B anti-poverty fund

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By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has asked the United States government for a substantial share of the $5-billion anti-poverty package for developing economies.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said he had brought up the issue with US Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill in a bilateral meeting held during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Mexico last week.

"During the meeting, I made a pitch so that the Philippines would have a good share of that fund. We have been trying to lobby with the US (for a bigger allocation of the fund) using different channels," said Camacho.

He added that other government officials had also brought up the request during the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell in the country. Moves to intensify the lobby for a share of the US money are also conducted in the United States through Ambassador Alfredo del Rosario.

The $5-billion Millennium Development Package was initiated by US President George W. Bush to help poor economies to recover.

Camacho said the US government was still trying to work out the mechanism of the fund and "this was why the Philippines has been actively trying to influence the mechanism of the program, especially on how the beneficiaries will be chosen."

The finance secretary said he had accepted an invitation to speak in a forum in Washington this month where he could further discuss the possible ways on how the United States could structure the development fund.

A source from the finance department said there seemed to be no reason why the Philippines would not have a share of the fund when it had extended so many concessions to the US government and had allowed US troops to set up temporary bases in Southern Philippines.

Camacho said he had also discussed with O'Neill the progress of the country's anti-terrorism efforts, highlighting the achievements of the local military in stamping out forces of the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

He told the US secretary of treasury that a legislation on anti-terrorism was being discussed in Congress and that efforts to crack down on terrorists' financing were ongoing.

Peso seen to remain under pressure

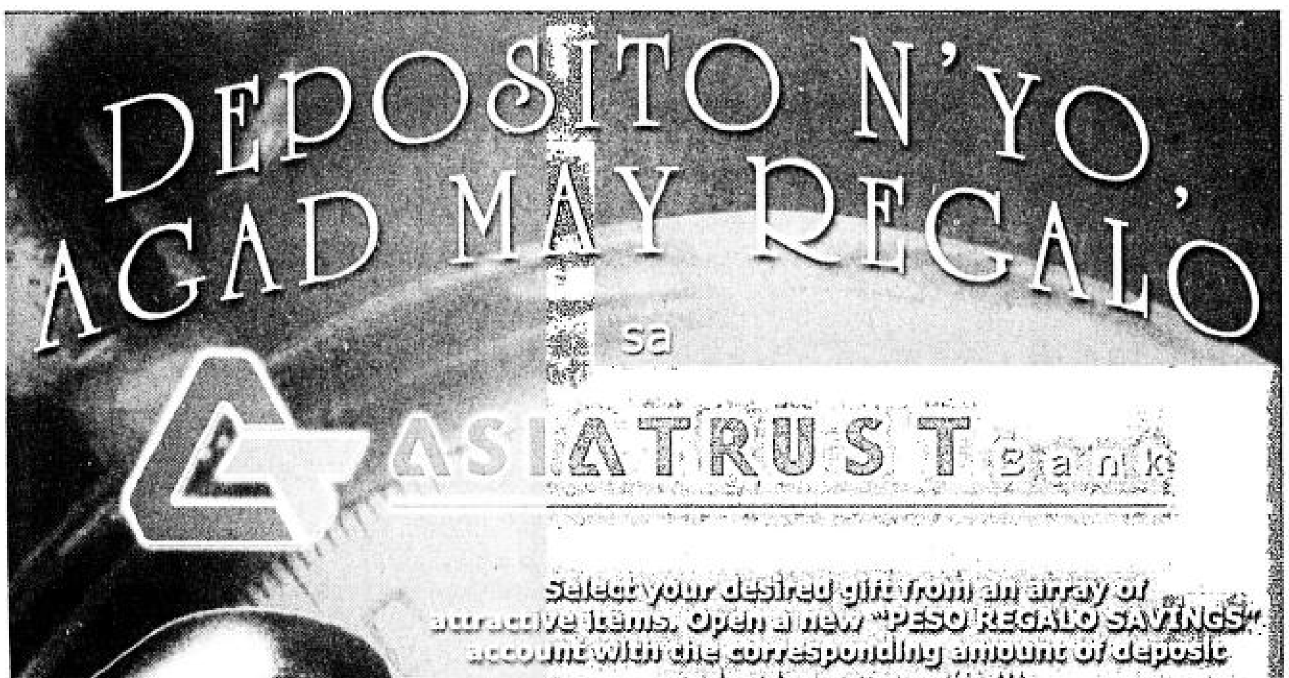
FOREIGN bank HSBC has projected the swelling of the country's budget deficit this year to more than P160 billion or 4.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It is, however, confident that the government can bring down the fiscal gap ratio to 3.8 percent of GDP in 2003.

HSBC treasurer John McGowan also told reporters during a quarterly briefing that the financial market was expecting the peso to remain under pressure during the rest of the year.

"The peso will be driven by increasing oil prices, uncertainties over the Iraq-US situation, the Philippine deficit and other economic data. I believe that the dollar would continue to strengthen against all currencies especially with the situation in Iraq that tends to push crude oil prices up," said McGowan.

The peso yesterday closed at 51.96 to a dollar from 51.955 the previous day.

The HSBC treasurer said that with the country's oil import bill growing to about $400 million a month, more dollars were required by the oil companies to purchase their crude oil and finished fuel products. Crude oil prices have increased to more than $26 per barrel recently. ***Clarissa S. Batino***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GMA VISITS NESTLÉ PLANT
Nestlé Philippines chair and CEO Juan Santos shows to President Macapagal-Arroyo a sample of the products being manufactured in the company's export facilities in Cabuyao, Laguna. The President visited the plant as the company announced it would continue its expansion program in the country to cater to the growing export market for its infant nutrition products. During her visit, the President inspected the Nestlé state-of-the-art proprietary technology in milk powder production and was briefed on the factory's expansion efforts.

Debt write-off seen boosting efforts to reform cooperatives

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo's issuance of an executive order governing the assumption by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and other government agencies of the P17 billion in obligations of rural electric cooperatives "is a major step toward reforming this sector."

The debt write-off, which was provided for under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, is expected to lower the cost of rural electricity in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Perez said the President wanted this strategy to serve as a vehicle for improving the efficiency and productivity of rural electric cooperatives.

He said the President believed that efficient electric cooperatives could help bring about long-term benefits, especially affordable power rates, to customers in the provinces.

Cheaper electricity, in return, is expected to spur the growth and expansion of countryside-based industries and enterprises.

Perez, who also chairs NEA, said some 47 of the country's 119 rural electric cooperatives were going through serious financial and management problems. Most of their debts were in the form of unpaid accumulated electric bills.

Perez explained that most of the overdue financial obligations of the sector were due to mismanagement. While there were some cases of deliberate mismanagement, most of the problems were due to lack of management knowhow and systems, Perez noted.

He said the President was optimistic that the problematic cooperatives can still undergo "meaningful transformation."

There are more good performing cooperatives rather than failed cooperatives, Perez noted. He said some 42 of the 119 cooperatives "are rated A+, which means they are well-managed, they pay their obligations on time, and they provide their customers with excellent service." Another 18 were rated A.

Perez, however, said that some drastic moves were also being planned to save ailing cooperatives, including the possible suspension or replacement of inefficient heads of certain cooperatives.

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Gov't OKs Aico ventures of Honda, Toyota RP units

LOCAL subsidiaries of Japanese automakers Toyota and Honda have won the Philippine government's permission to join the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) scheme, the Department of Trade and Industry said Tuesday.

Under the scheme, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. will supply auto parts and components to Toyota companies in Malaysia and Thailand while these companies in turn will supply parts to Toyota Philippines for the local production of the Camry and Corolla models.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc., for its part, will import auto parts for the Honda Civic from a company in Thailand and export parts and components for the City and Civic models to Honda Thailand.

This would take place under the Aico scheme, which promotes industrial cooperation between companies based in member countries of Asean, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the trade department said.

Under the Aico program, tariffs on participating products being exported to fellow Asean countries are set at only 3 to 5 percent.

Toyota Philippines has established an advantage in such products as transmissions, body panels and other auto sub-assemblies while Honda Philippines has recently opened a new transmission plant in this country and plans to eventually export completely built up units to other Asian nations. **AFP**

Gov't buys 100,000T of rice; plans to import more

THE NATIONAL Food Authority, one of Asia's largest rice buyers, said on Tuesday it bought 100,000 tons of the grain from Thailand and Vietnam and has sought tenders to import an additional 150,000 tons for buffer stocks.

Officials of state trading firm said in a news conference that the government bought 50,000 tons of 25-percent broken rice from Thailand at $207 per ton, including cost and freight (C&F), and another 50,000 tons of the same grade of rice from Vietnam at $205.80 per ton C&F.

NFA administrator Anthony Abad said the fresh rice imports should arrive in the country before Oct. 15.

The government has also sought tenders for the supply of another 150,000 tons of rice from China, Thailand and Vietnam, also for arrival before Oct. 15.

President Macapagal Arroyo has authorized the additional import of 250,000 tons to ensure ample stocks of the country's staple food due to a drought in recent months that delayed local rice planting in wide areas.

The imports would bring to 1.14 million tons the country's total rice imports since the start of the year from last year's total imports of about 780,000 tons.

"For calendar 2002, we already have sufficient stocks. Next year is another question," Abad said.

He said the government planned to return to the rice import market as early as the first quarter next year because of worries over the El Niño weather pattern.

Reuters

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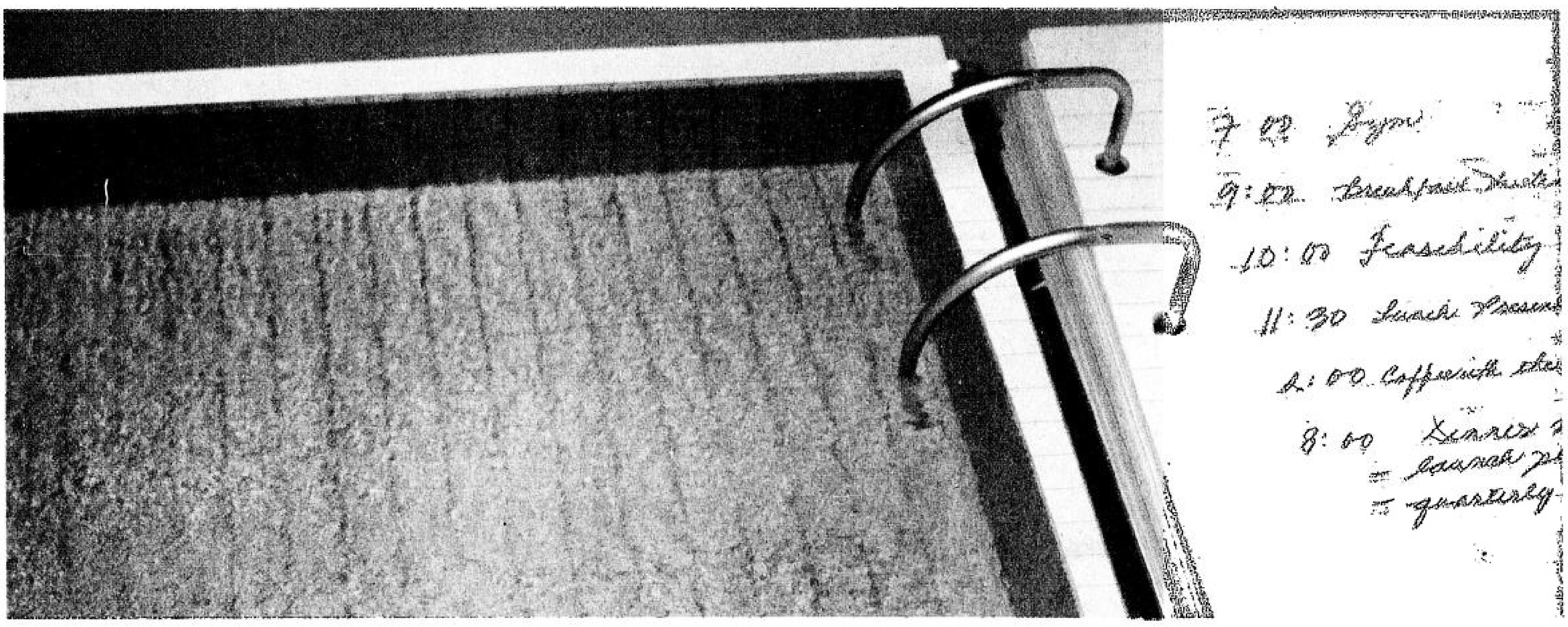

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	Please Call
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,450,000	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	700,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"*	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,750,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,626,000	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	-
Valley Golf	300,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	5,800,000	Please Call

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No Boni land deal, Metro Pac, Ayala say

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Metro Pacific Corp. said yesterday it was still holding talks to convince a number of companies, including the Ayala and United Laboratories groups, to invest in its flagship project, the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"As previously reported to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Metro Pacific continues to prioritize its debt reduction and restructuring activities," the company said in a disclosure.

It added that it was also "pursuing real estate development initiatives to grow its business in the Bonifacio Global City and other areas. Accordingly, Metro Pacific continues to engage in discussions and share relevant information, with existing and potential creditors of the company as well as potential development partners."

Metro Pacific identified the Ayala and Unilab groups as among its potential partners.

"However, no agreement has been reached or signed with respect to any purchase of shares in BLC (Bonifacio Land Corp.)," it clarified.

Metro Pacific has broken ties with its parent firm, First Pacific Co. Ltd., by obtaining sweeping powers from its shareholders to pursue its debt reduction efforts.

It is now using these powers to prevent the foreclosure of a $105-million debt it owes First Pacific. The debt is secured by a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

In a separate disclosure, Ayala Corp. denied that it has revived discussions with Metro Pacific or entered into negotiations with Unilab, much less conducted a due diligence on Bonifacio Land.

"It is publicly known, however, that ALI (Ayala Land Inc.), on several occasions, has been asked to consider participating in the Fort Bonifacio project," Ayala said.

A newspaper report (not in the INQUIRER) said Ayala and businessman Jose Campos, head of Unilab, had conducted due diligence on Bonifacio Land and were readying an offer to acquire a more than 50-percent stake in the company from First Pacific.

The offer was supposedly being readied in case First Pacific's planned sale of the stake, along with its 24.4-percent controlling interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., to business tycoon John Gokongwei fell through.

That deal has been held up by strong opposition from key PLDT officials who argue a change in ownership in the phone company would not be in shareholders' best interests.

SEC says no raps against ABS-CBN

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will no longer ask ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to explain the company's supposedly late disclosure of the fact that two of its creditors have declared it in default.

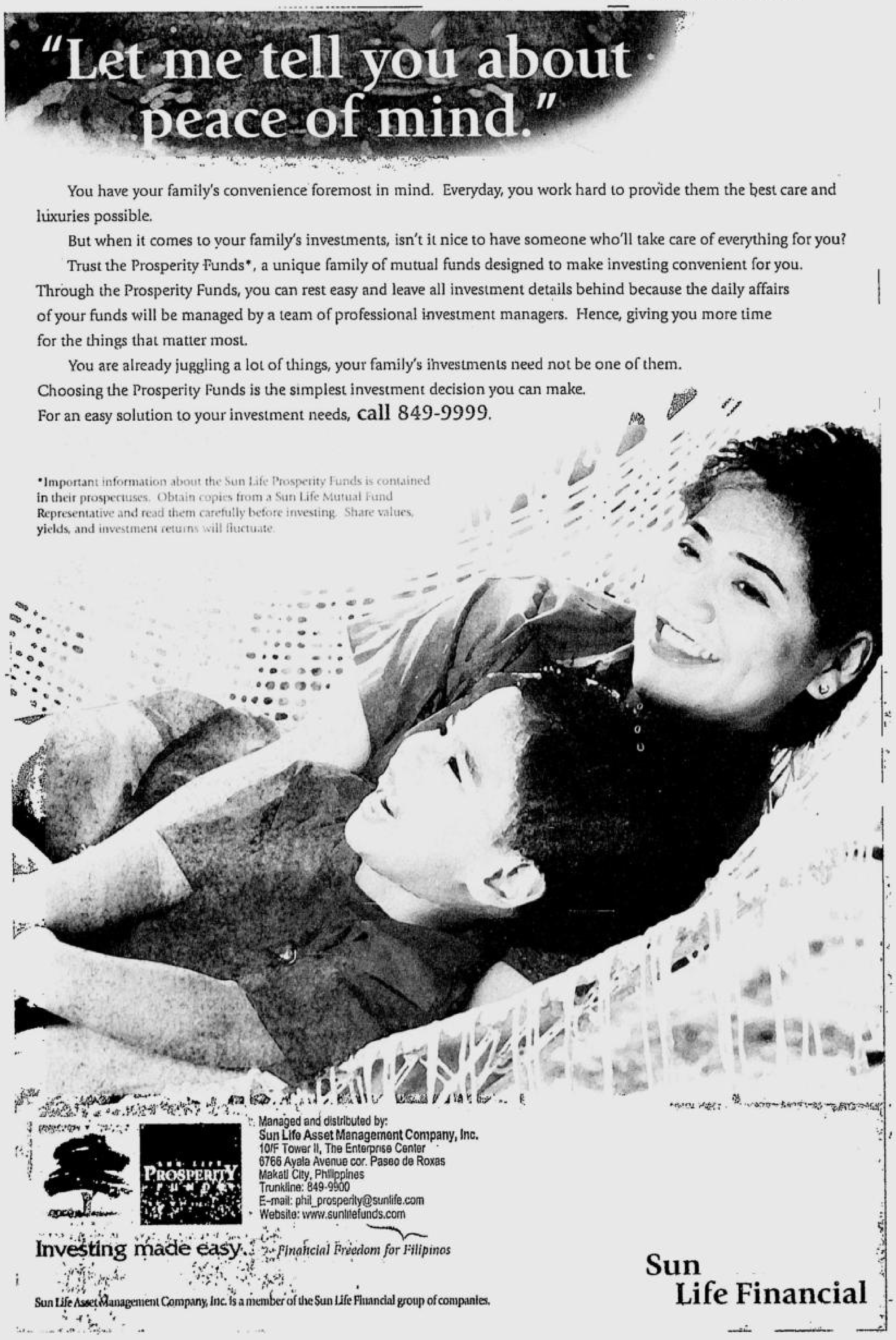
In response to a letter by the Philippine Stock Exchange, a copy of which was given to the SEC, ABS-CBN finance director Oliver Calma maintained that ABS-CBN was guided by disclosure requirements under the Securities Regulation Code.

As a result, SEC corporation finance department director Justina Callangan told reporters yesterday: "We will not write them anymore. They've already sent a reply. It's already sufficient."

On Sept. 3, Standard Chartered Bank and BNP Paribas informed the stock exchange that they declared ABS-CBN in default of P100 million and $3.6 million worth of debts on Aug. 30.

ABS-CBN was taken to task for failing to disclose this information a day after it was declared in default.

ABS-CBN, at that time, announced that it signed a P3-billion exchange notes facility agreement with most of its short-term creditors to stretch the maturity of its debts to five years in exchange for collateral.



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(As of Tuesday, September 10, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18	18.25	55,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	46.5	45	46.5	694,900
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	6,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	399,600
First E-Bank Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	120,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33	34	271,800
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	17,100
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	23,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1155	1180	1155	1175	2,030
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	890	890	890	890	1,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	41,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	535	510	520	34,040
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	200,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.031	0.034	0.031	0.034	2,200,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.026	0.03	0.025	0.029	34,700,000
Piltel	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	295	292.5	292.5	58,380
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19.25	19	19	8,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	31	31	116,400
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	5,307,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	1,698,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	95,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	216,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	46,100
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	49	49	69,300
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53.5	53	53	476,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	3,589,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.44	2.4	2.44	1,372,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	170,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	410,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	46,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	7,150,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	1,000,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	1,115,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.24	180,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Ionics Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	31,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	100,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	167,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,690,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	26,070,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	450,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	900,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.48	2.75	2.48	2.75	11,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.36	1,300,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	25	24.5	25	381,700
Jollibee Warrants	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	4,751,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.1	1.1	10,044,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	135,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	2,209,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
Omico Corporation	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	800,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	7,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,641,200	58,533,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	102,087,820	147,811,015.00
PRO	19,059,000	52,325,860.00
Mining	15,630,000	492,600.00
OIL	7,000,000	21,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	145,418,020	259,184,425.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	447.74	UP 5.45
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,548.53	DOWN 11.22
PRO	516.40	DOWN 5.93
Mining	1,166.10	DOWN 28.30
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	633.71	UP 3.01
Composite	1,133.59	UP 0.13

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 81 NO. OF TRADES: 1,688

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Holdings Inc. has announced that there will be a meeting for all remaining holders of its Philippine Deposit Receipts on Oct. 1, 9 a.m., at the boardroom of Globe Telecom Plaza in Mandaluyong.

* * *

PRYCE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 27, 4 p.m., at the Valle Verde Country Club. Stockholders as of Sept. 9 shall be entitled to vote during the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Manila Broadcasting Co.** were Fred Elizalde, Ruperto Nicdao Jr., Hadrian Arroyo, Eduardo Cordova, Julio Macuja II, Gabriel Villareal, Antonio Ataydel, Juan Manuel Elizalde and Jose Taruc.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Sept. 24, 3 p.m., at the Fairways, Manila Golf & Country Club, Makati. Only stockholders as of Aug. 24 are entitled to notice of and to vote during the meeting.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. has bought 1,000 of its own shares from the open market at P2.48 each, which explains the unusual 50-percent price increase of its shares. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 10, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.020721	1.000000	51.9440
Japan	Yen	0.008589	0.008415	0.4371
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589670	1.557400	80.8976
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130864	0.128207	6.6596
Switzerland	Franc	0.685554	0.671637	34.8875
Canada	Dollar	0.652926	0.639672	33.2271
Singapore	Dollar	0.583602	0.571755	29.6992
Australia	Dollar	0.558534	0.547196	28.4235
Bahrain	Dinar	2.707626	2.652661	137.7898
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272193	0.266667	13.8518
Brunei	Dollar	0.581608	0.569801	29.5977
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024074	0.023585	1.2251
UAE	Dirham	0.277914	0.272272	14.1429
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000843	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979700	50.8895
Argentina	Real	0.283534	0.277778	14.4289
Brazil	Real	0.326840	0.320205	16.6327
Denmark	Kroner	0.134662	0.131928	6.8529
India	Rupee	0.021081	0.020653	1.0728
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268647	0.263193	13.6713
Mexico	New Peso	0.102771	0.100685	5.2300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478919	0.469197	24.3720
Norway	Kroner	0.135756	0.133000	6.9086
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017271	0.016920	0.8789
South Africa	Rand	0.097379	0.095402	4.9556
Sweden	Kroner	0.108832	0.106623	5.5384
Syria	Pound	0.023093	0.022624	1.1752
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029898	0.029291	1.5215
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000702	0.000688	0.0357

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Agrilink, Foodlink organizers brace for visitor influx

THE ORGANIZERS of Agrilink and Foodlink, the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international agribusiness and food trade show are bracing themselves for the expected surge in the number of this year's local and foreign exhibitors and visitors.

This was revealed by Agrilink 2002 and Foodlink 2002 chair Jose Manuel C. Lopa, citing certain adjustments and preparations for that contingency.

Scheduled from Oct. 10 to 12, the twin events will occupy this time all of the three exhibition halls of the World Trade Center Metro Manila to accommodate its ever-growing number of participants.

At the same time, all technology seminars of Agrilink and Foodlink will be held at the exhibition area so the participants need not go out of the WTC.

"And for added convenience, the retail selling area, which used to be at the open parking lot of the WTC, will also be moved to the exhibition hall," Lopa said.

Organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD), these twin events have been attracting participants from all over the world.

Other details can be obtained from the FRLD (838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or email frld@info.com.ph).

At least 30 industry associations are supporting Agrilink and Foodlink as co-organizers.

The twin events complement the efforts of the local food and agriculture industries to gain access to modern technology and find new markets through linkages with the rest of the world.

With the support of the Department of Agriculture and the National Agriculture and Fishery Council, the events' organizers are able to reach out to the country's regions, paving the way for the widest possible dissemination of technical know-how and the generation of position papers from key participants.

"New sectors like integrated farm systems, fisheries, seeds and fertilizers have, thus, become active in Agrilink and Foodlink," Lopa said, adding: "As reflected in the theme 'Quality and Productivity: Keys to Global Market Competitiveness," Agrilink 2002 and Foodlink 2002 can also serve as catalyst to maximize industry growth," Lopa explained.

Lopa was referring to the seminars on various new technologies and the latest products and systems that will be showcased at Foodlink and Agrilink.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION
PEATC Compound, San Dionisio
Aguinaldo Blvd., Parañaque City

"INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID"

PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION hereby invites all interested bidders/contractors to submit application for eligibility to bid and subsequently to bid, if eligible for the:

A. NAME OF PROJECT:
Repaving/resurfacing of Identified Asphalt Pavement Bleeding, Crocodile Cracking & Shoving/Rutting Areas along the R-I Expressway

B. SCOPE OF WORKS:
B-1. Milling/Scraping of Existing Pavement
B-2. Application of Bituminous Tack Coat
B-3. Laying of Asphalt
B-4. Blotting of Mild Bleeding Areas
B-5. Patching of Potholes
B-6. Repainting of Affected Lane Markings
B-7. Traffic Management

C. APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE: P1,758,232.54

D. PRE-BID CONFERENCE DATE:
September 17, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Conference Room, PEATC Compound, San Dionisio, Parañaque City

E. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
September 18-27, 2002

F. BID DATE: September 23, 2002

G. Terms of Reference (TOR) can be acquired at the Office of the BAC Chairman, c/o Engr. Briccio B. Huliganga, Jr., Engineering & Maintenance Department, PEATC Compound, San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

H. PEATC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. Further, PEATC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DELIA C. HIPOLITO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 15, 2002)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 928-2303, 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3616

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested bidders to undertake the supply and delivery of various sizes of ***Universal Adaptor and Coupling*** as shown below, as per MWSI Standard Specification:

No.	Quantity	Item/Description			
1	240 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	200mm	FE/MJ
2	120 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	250mm	FE/MJ
3	144 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	300mm	FE/MJ
4	864 pcs.	Coupling	DI	100mm	MJ/MJ
5	960 pcs.	Coupling	DI	150mm	MJ/MJ
6	738 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	150mm	FE/MJ
7	372 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	150mm	FE/MJ
8	408 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	75mm	FE/MJ
9	708 pcs.	Adaptor	DI	100mm	FE/MJ
10	372 pcs.	Coupling	DI	200mm	MJ/MJ
11	264 pcs.	Coupling	DI	250mm	MJ/MJ
12	205 pcs.	Coupling	DI	300mm	MJ/MJ
13	120 pcs.	Coupling	DI	150mm	MJ/MJ
14	144 pcs.	Coupling	DI	200mm	MJ/MJ
15	528 pcs.	Coupling	DI	75mm	MJ/MJ

Note: Universal fittings should adapt to at least two (2) pipe types of the same nominal internal diameters.

As per MWSI Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P 1,000.00) in the form of Cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2% of the total bid amount.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on September 23, 2002, 10:00 AM at Corporate Logistics Conference Room, Basement, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Bid proposal shall be submitted at the **Purchasing Department on or before 3:00 PM of September 30, 2002 (Monday).**

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI–Sept 10 & 11, 2002)

Creba, HUDCC's housing expo

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate & Builders Association Inc. (Creba), in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), presents Housing Expo 2002 (Pabahay at Buhay), an innovative presentation to showcase a real estate exhibit infused with e-commerce technology.

The event features an interactive spectacle highlighted by a business area where visitors can log-in their home requirements. Internet access will be supplied by premiere real estate Internet service providers and a leading telecommunications company.

Housing Expo 2002 (Pabahay at Buhay) is a presentation of diverse information and requirements of the real estate industry.

The exhibit will include real estate projects from socialized, economic- to medium-cost housing, medium and high-end vacation leisure projects, golf estates, memorial parks, home loans and financial institutions, building systems and other related projects. Other activities during the exhibit include business discussions in the industry and seminars on real estate e-marketing, career orientation on real estate, CIPS (Consultant International Property Specialists) seminars and the HLURB seminar.

Housing Expo 2002 (Pabahay at Buhay) will be held from Sept. 13 to 15 at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City and is organized by Creba National, Creba Youth and Convex International.

Major sponsor of the event is Pacific Paint and Oil Manufacturing Inc. (Boysen) and minor sponsor is Pag-Ibig Fund.

Other participating exhibitors are A-Plus Living, Acqui, Archhikonst. Magazine, Amvel Land Development Corp., CPAC–Monier Phils. Inc., Creba Inc.–CY Business Matching/Creba USA, Charles Builders Co., Classic Billboards Inc., Digital Design, Durawood Construction, Filinvest Alabang, Gotesco Electrical, Jaime Milan, Lexber Inc., Mirpuri Holdings and Development Corp. Moldex Realty Inc., New Pagcor, San Miguel Properties Inc. Taytan Phils., V.V. Soliven, VazBuilt/Vasquez Building Commodities, Worldmaster Corp.

For more information on Housing Expo 2002, interested parties may call the Creba office numbers 726-8664 to 65 or send email to convex@mozcom.com.

CPM CONFERMENT

The Asia Pacific Marketing Federation and the Philippine Marketing Association recently conferred on Rafael V. Villanueva Jr (center) the designation 'Certified Professional Marketer (Asia Pacific)'. Villanueva is the president of Harbor Town Hotel Management Corp. in Iloilo City. He has fulfilled all the prescribed requirements in respect of professional examinations and experience. Also shown are, from left, Cergen Go, PMA executive vice president, Renato S. Esguerra, chair, PMA-CPM career development program, Ruby Ramores, PMA vice president for membership, and Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr., graduate studies director, CBE Graduate School, DLSU-Manila.

It's National Book Store's Price-Busting week

NATIONAL Book Store's Grand Cut Price Sale is now ongoing giving you savings of up to 70 percent on all books and selected supplies until Sept. 15. Plus, for every single day purchase of P1,000 during the sale, customers get a free carry-all foldable bag.

It's not just a great time to buy a book. We recommend you get a headstart on your Christmas shopping of the perfect book for your friends and loved-ones so you can be assured that your giving a valuable present.

Some gift suggestions for fiction lovers are bestsellers on sale like Anne Rice's hardbound "Blood and Gold" for only P517.50, Danille Steele's "Irresistible Forces," Robert Ludlum's "Cassandra Compact" and Tom Clancy's "The Bear and the Dragon," each at only P199.

Children will go crazy in receiving Harry Potter stickers books (P201 each), Origami for Beginners (P171.50), Sally Gardner's all-time children's favorite storybook "The Glass Heart (P275.50) or Walt Disney Puzzles like Simba Pride and Toy Story II (P194.75).

Your business-minded friends will get valuable information from Bill Gates' "Business @ The Speed of Thought" (P132.75) or "The Complete Idiot's Guide" series for only P199 each with titles on "Winning Through Negotiation," "Making Money Through Intuition," "Motivating People," "Team Building," and "Brand Management."

Art lovers will treasure such finds as "Christmas Details" by Mary Norden (P94.50) and "The Artist Way" by Julia Cameron (P365). Inspirational books like "Living Through the Meantime" by Iyanla Vanzant (P259). "Friendship with God" by Neale Donald Walsh (P185) or "The Private Prayers of Hope John Paul II" (P195) will uplift the soul of the introspective bargain hunter.

On top of all the good book deals, you can also choose from photo albums, picture frames, greeting cards, and stuffed toys. Hurry to the National Book Store branch nearest you and get a load of our biggest sale ever.

SPECIAL LINEMAN'S COURSE

A special lineman's course was given by the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) to 25 selected students from Marikina. These students received a one-year training program to equip them with the skills needed when they go out on the field. The skills they acquired will qualify them for gainful employment in the power and utility sector. This is in line with the Grant 100 Scholarships program of Meralco as part of the company's celebration of its centennial year in 2003. Other projects lined up are the adoption of 100 public schools and adoption of 100 charitable institutions, and the planting of 100,000 trees. Shown are six of the 25 linemen scholars during their formal presentation to Marikina City Mayor Marides C. Fernando (seated). With them, from left, are Alex Manalo, head of Meralco's Cainta branch, Ruth David, head of central branches, and Marie Suck, head of the Marikina branch.

BITS Clips

US Embassy sponsors concert

THE US Embassy, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, is sponsoring a September 11 Commemorative Concert at 8 p.m. at the CCP's Main Theater. The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Aaron Copland's "A Fanfare for a Common Man", Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings", and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem". The musical tribute will honor the more than 3,000 people, from over 90 countries, who lost their lives in the World Trade Center Towers, at the Pentagon, and aboard the airplanes. Tickets are free and are open to the public on a first-come-first-serve basis. Call the CCP box office at 832-1125 local 1404 or 832-3706 for tickets.

AIM honors outstanding alumni

THE ALUMNI Association of the Asian Institute of Management (AAAIM) pays tribute to a select group of Alumni who have been recognized for outstanding accomplishments during the past year. The first recipients of the Honor and Prestige Recognition are Gina Lopez for her Bantay Kalikasan Project, Ignacio Bunye and Gen. Edilberto Adan. They will be presented with certificates of recognition during the Champagne Celebration to be held today, Sept. 11 at the Lopez Gallery of the AIM Campus in Makati City. Every three months, the AAAIM board will announce the names of alumni who will be given the HP recognition.

Meet on terrorism and peace

"TERRORISM, peace and development in Asia after September 11" is the theme of the next conference of the Ateneo Center for Asian Studies (Acas) to be held today, Sept. 11 at the Amphi-theater of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell Center, Makati City. Six renowned scholars and experts from the academe and government will discuss the origins and consequences of terrorism during the conference. About 80 participants from the academe, diplomatic, government and NGO sectors of the Philippines and other countries are expected to attend the conference. Interested parties can call Acas at 426-6001 locals 5208 and 5209.

Let history judge Ramos administration

By Francisco L. Viray and Guido Alfredo A. Delgado
Contributors

COMMENTARY

AS the electricity supply pressure eased, the Ramos administration started instituting tariff reforms. The Ramos administration foresaw the possibility that in the absence of a real market, where the law of supply and demand for electricity can operate, consumers must be protected from the vagrancy of an over- or undersupply.

In 1997, Napocor applied for a pure energy charge with the Energy Regulatory Board. This approach will allow consumers to simply pay for energy consumed without necessarily paying for the "demand" or capacity charge. This application is still pending with the Energy Regulatory Commission up to now.

The Purchase Power Cost Adjustment also shielded consumers from the IPP contracts by recovering the cost of the IPPs over the useful life of the plant rather than the implied maturity of the IPP contracts. This would cause Napocor to "under-recover" because its cash inflow would not match its cash outflow. However, this was a policy decision precisely to avoid charging the consumer any "excess" in capacity. In fact, today, statistics from Napocor show that the dispatch of the IPPs in 2001 has matched the actual capacity fees being charged by Napocor.

Napocor also initiated a revenue-neutral tariff unbundling to ensure that its tariffs would be transparent to consumers. It has also started publishing the rates it charges the distributors so that consumers can compute the additional charges their distributors place on the Napocor tariffs. Some distributors tack on as much as 60 percent on what Napocor charges. The ERC is currently looking into this issue.

Finally, Napocor pushed for "open access" so that whatever benefits could be derived from the various tariff reduction initiatives being undertaken by Napocor then could be passed on to consumers directly. In the same vein, Napocor was pushing for the competitive bidding dispatch of all power plants to allow the system to dispatch only the lowest-cost power plants regardless of whether these were IPPs of distributors or of Napocor.

Usual provisions

Governments who are unable to finance capital-intensive projects enter into concession agreements with the private sector. The scheme is now known to us as the build-operate-transfer method, which has been widely used in most power generation projects in the Philippines and the rest of the world.

These projects were usually financed through loans, and the IPPs that came to the Philippines were of no exception. Lenders who financed the projects of the IPPs required some form of credit enhancements or incentives to mitigate risks. Among these are the so-called take-or-pay provisions as well as the so-called government performance undertaking, or PU. With the PU, the IPPs are assured that Napocor would be able to discharge all its obligations as they fall due, and that if Napocor should fail, the IPP would have the government as a recourse.

The rationale for Napocor taking the market risk may be explained by the fact that IPPs are required under the agreements to sell their capacity exclusively to Napocor. They cannot sell their output and have no direct access to consumers since they have no franchises and, thus, cannot be considered public utilities. Only Napocor has direct access to consumers and has control as to when these IPPs are dispatched and by how much each facility generate. It is but fair that Napocor assumes the demand or market risk.

Again, these are common arrangements in debt-financed infrastructure projects anywhere in the world.

The take-or-pay provision is no different from a simple lease arrangement: When a person gets a car under a lease-to-own arrangement, that individual pays the lease whether or not the car is used for 24 hours a day or just parked in the garage for most of the time.

Given the sluggish demand at the moment, it is just a matter of finding a market to dispatch the current capacity surplus. At the same time, whatever excess we have safeguards our supply in the future should there be a sudden improvement in consumption.

Risks

Aside from the usual lease provision, governments normally take on risks like foreign exchange and cost of fuel in relation to power projects. Napocor took the risks associated with fuel supply to take advantage of its fuel tax exemption privileges and cost discounts obtained through public bidding and long-term supply contracts. Right-of-way was also handled by Napocor because of its right to eminent domain. All these translate to costs savings that are, in turn, reflected in the power rates.

The Philippines, during the time of President Fidel Ramos, was no exception to these "boilerplate" provisions. These are now all reflected as part of the widely criticized purchased power adjustment.

Admittedly, there was a significant rise in the cost of power when the peso plunged to 50 to a dollar from just 26 in 1994 due to the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The depreciation directly impacted not just on operating costs and fuel but also swelled Napocor's mostly dollar-denominated obligations.

Things should be taken into perspective though, and the reality was that 10 years ago, there was very limited choice for a government that inherited billions in debts and a near-empty coffers but to accept some of these risks.

RAMOS

VIRAY (top) and DELGADO: We have nothing to be ashamed of. Let history judge us.

As an economist from Europe put it, the Philippine government was faced with the painful truth that investors and lenders "are under no obligation to support the Philippines at all costs, under all circumstances."

It took certain humility to admit that back then, the Philippines was simply not the most attractive area for investment.

No pressure

Now, these same provisions are being used as the proof that President Ramos favored certain contractors. We would like to categorically state that the President never pressured us to favor any of the contractors who vied for these contracts. These contracts were awarded through public biddings and, in all cases, were scrutinized by the inter-agency committee headed by the National Economic and Development Authority. We further remember the statement of then Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro, who was credited to be the moving force behind the resolution of the power crisis of the early '90s—as he accepted in 2000 an award from the Management Association of the Philippines—that he too was never pressured by President Ramos.

We, the officials of the Ramos administration, know that as part of our responsibilities, we have to answer various charges in the proper forum in relation to the IPPs and the power crisis.

But we have nothing to be ashamed of.

Let history judge us.

(Editor's Note: Francisco L. Viray was energy secretary while Guido Alfredo A. Delgado was Napocor president under the Ramos administration.)

BIR collects ₱33.9B in Aug.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said yesterday it collected around P33.875 billion in August, slightly higher than initial estimates but still below the government's target for the month.

"August is a good month for collection, although the number was still lower than our target. We are still striving to meet our target for the rest of the year," BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said.

Parayno had been expecting the numbers to hit P30.047 billion.

The BIR was supposed to collect at least P37.37 billion in August from P28.557 billion in the same month last year. Its target for the whole year was set at P442.5 billion against an original target of P447.6 billion.

Parayno said the bureau would complete this week a new regulation ordering companies found under-declaring their 10-percent value-added tax payments to immediately settle their obligations.

"We are almost done preparing the letter, which will ask them to pay their obligations or pay the consequences," he said.

In an audit of close to 600 companies, the BIR discovered VAT under-declarations worth about P700 million from P7 billion worth of sales.

Parayno earlier threatened to sue companies found cheating on their VAT payments.

The audit has yielded positive results, as the BIR's VAT collections have improved by 10.4 percent as of July.

Parayno said he would push all fronts to meet the bureau's targets this year and help the government cut its budget deficit, which had reached P133 billion as of July against a full-year target of P130 billion.

He said the bureau would try to improve the government's tax effort to at least match last year's 12.7-percent ratio to gross domestic product.

"We have to bring our tax effort up to at least match last year's numbers. We have to," he stressed.

US investment firm Morgan Stanley has said in a research that the Philippines' tax effort will likely fall below 10 percent of gross national product this year.

Parayno said Morgan Stanley's conclusion was "unwarranted" and failed to account for the capability of the BIR to improve its collections.

The agency generates 80 percent of the country's cash requirements each year.

"Our tax effort would be much higher than 10 percent of GDP. We would have to strive in keeping our targets for the remainder of the year," Parayno said.

As of July, the government's tax collection has dropped to 10.8 percent of GDP.

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DOE threatens to shut down 6 LPG dealers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has threatened to shut down and sue six liquefied petroleum gas traders unless they settle millions worth of fines.

In a news statement issued yesterday, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. identified the erring firms as BRE Enterprises and Excel Gas Corp., OMNI Gas Corp., Jandee Commercial, Roaner Enterprises, JVG Gutierrez Gas Center and Exlee Trading.

Perez said the first four firms were selling Excel Gas, OMNI Gas, Jandee Gas and Island Gas, respectively. The other two market assorted brands.

The official said the six firms were found to be using LPG cylinders that were under-filled, without tare weight markings, were tampered with or had fake seals.

He added that while the establishments had registered brand names, they were found to be using unbranded cylinders.

"We have given them enough warnings, but they have not complied," Perez said. "We (carefully) followed due process, yet they refused to settle their fines."

He did not give the total amount that the six firms owed.

The energy department issued a circular in June 2000 that imposed penalties on under-filling, tampering and unauthorized refilling of LPG cylinders.

It also required LPG firms to engrave correct tare weight—weight of cylinder plus content—markings on each tank.

Perez said cases of unsettled fines went as far back as the issuance of the circular.

He explained that unsafe industry practices were a major cause of destructive fires.

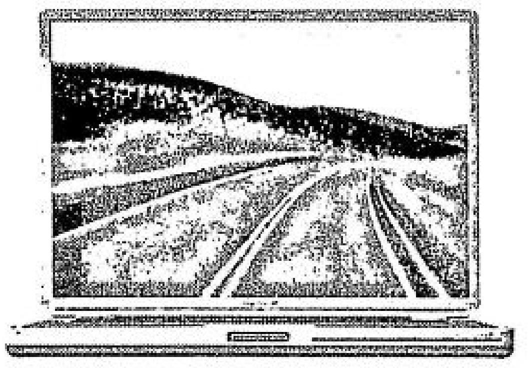
Perez quoted data from the Department of Interior and Local Government, which showed that fires caused by exploding LPG cylinders had been increasing.

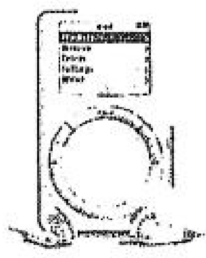
Ayala unit's trust fund at ₱1B

AYALA Plans Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, has announced that its trust fund has topped P1 billion as of end-July this year, and that it has recorded a 25-percent growth in revenues.

For a company that is less than eight years in operation, Ayala Plans' trust fund is considered to be among the fastest growing, with an annual average of 101 percent.

In a statement, BPI Insurance Group president Alfonso Salcedo Jr. said Ayala Plans "achieved this milestone through conservative fund management policies, coupled with aggressive sales, marketing and collection operations."





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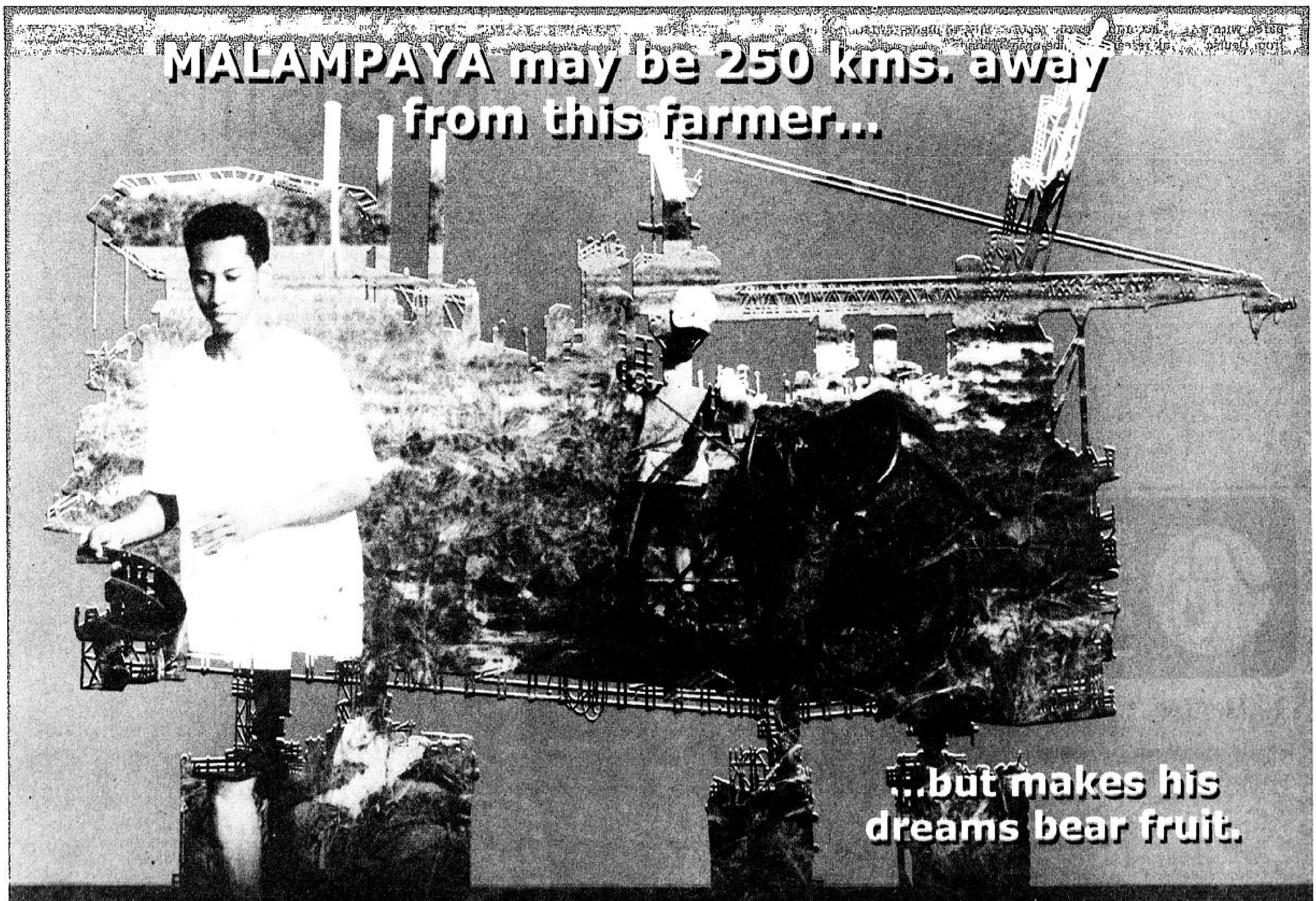
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Central bankers see economic growth in 2003

BASEL, Switzerland—Top central bankers expect the world economy to pick up speed next year after turmoil in financial markets has hurt growth prospects this year, Bank of England Governor Sir Edward George said on Monday.

"It is not a strongly negative situation. I do not think there was anybody talking in terms of double dip," he told reporters after chairing a regular meeting of central bank governors from the Group of 10 rich industrial nations.

"We were talking in terms of slower growth . . . than we would have expected in the early part of the summer. (This was) very much associated with developments in financial markets and the impact that has had on wealth, spending, and also on sentiment."

George said there was agreement that the major economies were growing, albeit at a pretty slow pace, adding this meant slower growth through this year and a gradual pick-up next year.

Those around the table saw euro zone economies growing by around 2 percent at the end of next year, with US growth approaching 3 percent.

The routine meeting at the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements, a kind of central banks' central bank, included Federal Reserve vice chairman Roger Ferguson and European Central Bank president Wim Duisenberg.

Brazilian Central Bank president Arminio Fraga, in Europe to reassure European investors, bankers and authorities that its debt is sustainable, also attended the meeting.

But George said the policymakers did not discuss potential implications on the global economy of a US attack on Iraq.

"I think central bankers don't have any more idea about that kind of thing than anybody else. What we see is a nervousness in financial markets, that's in the oil price and is certainly a factor affecting stock markets," he said.

The global economy has been giving off mixed signals lately, with stumbling growth calling for lower interest rates but high inflation—compounded by rising oil prices amid fears of a US assault on oil exporter Iraq—posing a clear threat.

US crude oil futures have jumped to nearly $30 a barrel from $18 at the beginning of this year, although George said central bankers felt that the Opec (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) cartel stood ready to "turn on the taps" and boost supply to keep the price within a $22-$28 range.

He also noted a contrast between macroeconomic data and tumbling stock markets.

"As far as the economic data were concerned, it was recognized that it was mixed but there were positive signs," he said. "It's difficult to reconcile that with the substantial weakening and the volatility we've seen in equities."

Reuters

IMF chief downplays Japan's woes

TOKYO—The chief of the International Monetary Fund cautioned against panic over Japan's financial troubles Monday as the government readied a new economic revival package that could use public funds to prop up the stock market.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has come under renewed pressure to rekindle the world's second biggest economy since data showed last month it shrank for four straight quarters—its worst and longest slump since Tokyo began keeping records in 1980.

Koizumi's top economic advisers began working on a new turnaround plan Monday.

And the effort got a boost from IMF chief Horst Koehler, who was visiting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Japan's entry to the Washington-based IMF.

"Nobody should panic," Koehler said. "There are certainly problems. But it's not a situation that you should think tomorrow the Japanese financial sector will break down."

Koehler's comments, directed at Japan's fragile banking sector, were welcome news to Koizumi, who has seen his popularity plunge amid criticism he has let the economy rot and turned his back on campaign promises of "bold measures."

The new economic reforms being considered by his advisers could try writing off the billions of dollars in bad debt held by the nation's banks. The sour loans swelled to 43 trillion yen ($364 billion) in March, from 36 trillion yen six months earlier.

Another possibility being considered is pumping public money into investment funds tied to stock price indices, in an attempt to boost Tokyo's withered stock market. Last week, Tokyo stocks hit near 20-year lows as confidence in the economy wilted.

A new reform package is expected to be hammered out and introduced as early as Sept. 20, after Koizumi returns from trips to the United States and North Korea.

Some analysts said its too early to judge the plans.

"Short-term, some measures may have effect," said Garry Evans of HSBC Securities in Tokyo. "But medium-term, I'm afraid they are going to be completely ineffective."

One possibility is a tax cut of at least 2.5 trillion yen ($21.2 billion) to combat deflation, a trend of falling prices that hollows out profits and property values.

Some members of Koizumi's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy say the economy needs tax cuts amounting to at least 0.5 percent of the gross domestic product. Economy minister Heizo Takenaka suggested over the weekend that tax cuts of up to 5 trillion yen ($42.3 billion) might be needed.

Koizumi has made rekindling the economy his top priority since coming to office last year on a reformist platform. But so far, his attempts have had little effect.

AP

US stocks seen lagging bonds

NEW YORK—More good news for Americans who have rediscovered bonds: there is just a 42 percent probability that stocks will beat bonds' performance over the next 20 years, according to a new study.

Corporate bonds are especially cheap compared with stocks, according to the report from Deutsche Bank researchers. The probability that US stocks will outperform corporate bonds over the next 20 years is just 23 percent, the firm said.

Over the next decade, "equities will be viewed as a high-risk, low-return investment, and we should see significant shifts from equities to fixed-income positions," Deutsche Bank said.

Deutsche's findings echo those of powerful bond fund manager Bill Gross of Pacific Investment Management Co. Gross said last week that bonds will be the best-performing asset class for "years to come," and that 5000 is a fair level for the Dow Jones industrial average.

Their conclusions stand in contrast to the view of many financial planners, who believe that over long periods of time, stocks outperform other asset classes.

"Interest rates on bonds are at historical lows now," said New York-based investment advisor Lou Altfest. "Any increase in government spending could lead, perhaps intentionally, to higher inflation, which would hurt bonds."

Many stock investors already are throwing in the towel as the bear market mauls their portfolios.

Investors pulled a net $52.6 billion from equity mutual funds in July, the most ever, according to the Investment Company Institute. Bond funds took in a net $28.1 billion in July, also a record.

Twenty years ago, US equities had a 94-percent probability of outperforming bonds, Deutsche Bank said. Falling inflation and interest rates, the end of the cold war, baby-boomers' investments in stocks, and stock market-friendly fiscal and monetary policies all helped boost stocks, but none of those factors is likely to be repeated, the firm said.

Reuters

Big shakeup as European fund firms face tough times

LONDON—Europe's banks and insurers could sell off their fund management arms over the next few years as soggy equity markets crimp profit growth and fund firms struggle to adapt to a bleaker economic climate, a report published on Monday shows.

A sell-off would represent a dramatic turn in hopes for the industry since the 1990s when pension reform, booming markets and a growing equity culture across the region made for mouth-watering growth predictions, encouraging financial services giants to pay up big sums for fund management firms.

But with equity markets faltering, those growth prospects now look much less attractive while problems in core areas such as insurance and investment banking are causing many firms to rethink their fund management strategy.

"Banks and insurers will become increasingly unwilling to hold on to their asset managers at a time when revenue growth is falling below target," the report by investment bank UBS Warburg and consultants Oliver, Wyman and Company says.

"Given recent concerns over insurer solvency, some insurers will see the sale of their asset managers as an opportunity to raise capital to support the core business." Slumping stock markets have taken much of the gloss off the fund management industry with analysts being forced to scale back growth forecasts.

According to the survey, funds under management in Europe will slip back to 14.3 trillion euros this year from 15 trillion euros at the end of 2001.

This will grow to 21.5 trillion euros at the end of 2006, but the rate of expansion of 10.7 pct is well below the sizzling 15 percent-plus annual growth of the 1990s.

Already the slump is forcing Europe's fragmented asset management market to restructure.

Last week private bank Rothschilds said it could sell its UK institutional and retail asset management operation as it focuses on high margin private clients.

In Europe, Zurich Financial Services sold off its US asset management arm to Deutsche Bank to bolster other parts of its business. There is now speculation that its UK fund unit, Threadneedle, will be next in line as its parent struggles to raise $5.0 billion to repair its battered finances.

Deutsche's German rivals Commerzbank and Hypovereinsbank have also had a rethink over fund management. Hypovereinsbank sold its fund arm F&C Management in 2000, while Commerzbank tried unsuccessfully to sell its UK fund arm Jupiter this year only to find that few firms were willing to pay anywhere near the 680 million pounds it parted with for the mainly retail fund firm.

Commerzbank still plans to sell its US fund unit Montgomery, but will continue to manage domestic assets.

Increasingly firms will be forced to make such strategic choices, according to the report.

Reuters

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATALINO TAGAMA RASA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Esperanza G. Aclan of Mabini, Batangas under Doc. No. 2927; Page No. 87; Book No. XXVI; Series of 2002.
PDI-Aug.28 Sept. 4&11, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL C. MARIANO and LILIA M. MARIANO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc No. 7; Page No. 3; Book III; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Virgilio Nicomedes of Makati.
PDI-Aug 28.Sept. 4&11,2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORENTINO R. MARTINEZ was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with waiver as per Doc 5232; Page 94; Book VII; Series of 2002 under Notary Public Wilhelmina F. Quimpo of QC
PDI-Sept. 11, 18 & 25, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late MARCIAL F. CABUSO & REMIGIA B. CABUSO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc138, Page29, Book CCCLXXXII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Virginia A. Paragua of Q.C.
PDI-Sept 11. 18 & 25. 2002

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **SUN CRUISES, INCORPORATED** with office address at **520 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **Expanding Operator of Tourist Water Transport** with the route Manila to Corregidor and vice-versa has been officially accepted on **August 30, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 30th day of August 2002.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Sept. 11, 2002)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **PHILIPPINE SHIN-EI INC.** with office address at **M.A. Roxas Highway, Clark Special Economic Zone Authority, Clarkfield, Pampanga** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Fabricated Metal Parts and Components at a capacity of 9,150,000 pieces per year with plant site at the same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **September 2, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 2nd day of September 2002.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Sept. 11, 2002)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-10B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 11, 2002; 2:00 PM			
A1	1 LOT	FUSE UNIT & DISCONNECTING SWITCH	3CNA-02-080
A2	1 SET	POWER CIRCUIT BREAKER	3OPO-02-022

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A1 - September 26, 2002; 10:00AM - at SLT Bidding Room
2) A2 - September 26, 2002; 11:00AM - at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting **September 05, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION
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(PDI--Sept. 11, 2002)

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GLORIA CAMPOS BENIGNO

of Lourdes, Pasay City

Professor, Ateneo Graduate School of Business

Our beloved sister passed away peacefully
on Monday, September 9, 2002 at the age of 83.

She was the kindest, most loving and caring member of the family. She was our pillar of strength.

She is survived by her siblings **Virginia, Teodoro, Dolores, Pilar, Rosauro** and **Monico**; and in-laws **Domingo, Albert, Rizalina** and **Ofelia**; nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, September 13, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Chapel.

ELIZA T. CARLOTA

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 9, 2002
at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children **Sonny** and **Lilibeth, Betty** and **Kip, Buddy** and **Daisy, Benny, Dooley** and **Susan**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina Viewing Chapels 1 and 2 (Mortuary).

Interment will be on Friday, September 13, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
of the 1st Death Anniversary of

RUFINO C.F. (ROY) SANTOS III

Who passed away on September 11, 2001 at the WTC, New York, NY

Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church .... 6:30 am & 6:30 pm
N. Garcia St. Bel-Air, Makati City

The National Shrine of Sacred Heart .... 6:00 am, 6:30 am, 7:00 am
12:15 pm, 6:00 pm
Dao, Santo Antonio Village, Makati City

San Pedro Parish Church .... 6:00 am
San Pedro, Laguna

St. Roque Parish Church .... 6:00 am
Pateros, Metro Manila

Immaculate Conception Parish .... 8:00 am
Antipolo City

Santuario de San Antonio .... 12:15 pm
Forbes Park, Makati City

Also Holy Masses will be offered at St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, NY, St. Vincent de Ferrer at East 66th, New York, NY, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, B.C., Canada and St. Paul Church, Richmond, B.C. Canada.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory
of the 57th Birthday of Our Daddy

JOSEFINO "PEMPE" VIRI GUEVARRA

September 11, 1945 - October 11, 2002

Please pray for his soul and all the departed souls.
Eternal rest grant unto him Oh Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon Him
May he rest in peace, Amen.
(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)
Join the family in celebration of the Mass at
7:00 pm at 687 Cavite Street, Gagalangin,
Tondo, Manila.

MAJ. CAESAR P. BAULA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 9, 2002
at the age of 57 (7.26.45 - 9.9.02).

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, No. 3 & 4, Tañong, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, 13 September 2002 at 12:00 noon at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

His wife **Leticia**; daughter **Samantha**; brother, cousins, nephews, nieces and in-laws request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved

TERESITA A. DE CASTRO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 7, 2002.

Her loving husband **Dr. Ernesto de Castro**; children Ernest, Andrew, Jean and Nicole request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment today, September 11, 2002 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King, Greenmeadows.

CONRADO CRUZ, JR.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on September 9, 2002 at the age of 59.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the La Loma Cemetery, Grace Park, Caloocan City.

"But the souls of the righteous are in the Hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them."
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1

God took our good and beautiful Mom

ESTER A. AGUILA

Widow of Dr. Conrado O. Aguila, Sr. (†)
at the age of 78, on Tuesday, September 10, 2002
to rest on His love and peace.

She is survived by her children, in-laws, and grandchildren
Angie & Jun Dimarucot, Lek, AJ, Bri,
Bel & Berting (†) Sarenas, Chulai, Jopet, Mayen, Mayesh
Bobby & Nanette, Archee, Meyan, John-C
Bimbo & Analee, Rafael
Wing & Babylynne, Yobi, Mayl, Maan
Ding

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Camus Extension, Davao City.

Interment will be at the Davao Memorial Park after the 9:00 AM Funeral Mass at Fatima Church, on Thursday, September 12, 2002.

Arch. HUMBERTO "DODO" H. HOLLERO

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 10, 2002
at the age of 65.

His bereaved wife **IMELDA**; children **BOBET & BABY JO, ROSETTE & MON FERNANDEZ, HEIDI & CASEY BATINO, MINA & BOSY DE LEON, HERBERT & CHE, IMEE & LOUIE ACHACOSO**, and **NANI & KAREN**; and grandchildren; brothers **RENE (†), EDWIN, DIOTAY, GILBERT & TRISTAN (†)**; and sister **HARRIET**; and other relatives and friends request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, South Lawin Avenue, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Crematory after the 12:00 NN Mass.

BEATRIZ NARTEA TORRES

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 09, 2002
at the age of 76.

Her bereaved husband **Jesus Sian Torres (†)**; children **Gwen & Jun Fajardo, Boy & Jet Torres, Marisse & Koko Juvier, Barney & Janet Torres, Dennis & Rochelle Torres, M.D., Chori & Gilbert Infante** and **Paul & Tess Torres**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for her peaceful and eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel N, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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Investors find refuge in emerging markets

NEW YORK—With their domestic stock portfolios taking a beating for a third year, US investors who turned to emerging markets have suffered smaller losses—and some can even boast of making money.

One explanation for the relative outperformance is that managers of emerging markets funds have an easier time finding inexpensive stocks.

"On a valuation basis, emerging markets are still pretty cheap compared to the developed markets," said David Nolan, manager of the Quant Emerging Markets Fund.

The average fund investing in stocks in emerging markets is down 5.6 percent year to date through Sept. 5, according to fund research company Lipper Inc., a unit of Reuters Group Plc.

That compares with a 22.3-percent decline for the average fund investing in a diversified group of US stocks.

Investors have started to notice what is going on in the emerging markets, too, fund managers say. Some Asian economies are growing in the mid-single-digit range while inflation remains tame.

"They're the ones who have been absorbing our (US) capital on the other side of our current account deficit," said Daniel Barker, manager of the Seligman Emerging Markets Fund.

"The other side of our bad numbers is their good numbers."

The Vontobel Eastern European Equity Fund rose 4.07 percent in the four weeks ended Sept. 5, beating all other emerging markets funds, according to Lipper. The rankings exclude funds with less than $10 million in assets. ***Reuters***

Fed officials see gradual recovery of US economy

MARLBOROUGH, Massachusetts—Two Federal Reserve policymakers on Monday agreed that the US economy was recovering gradually, although it has hit a few "bumps in the road."

The remarks indicated no urgency among central bankers to lower interest rates to help prop up a sluggish US economy, confirming Wall Street's view that the Fed will hold interest rates steady at its next meeting on Sept. 24.

"My own sense is that the recovery will proceed at the slow pace we're seeing for a while, with a gradual pick-up in capital spending and employment growth through the end of the year," Federal Reserve Bank of Boston president Cathy Minehan said.

The comments were echoed by her counterpart at the Chicago Fed, Michael Moskow, who said that despite challenges facing the economy, the recovery was still continuing and monetary policy remained accommodative.

"We expect that the economic expansion now underway will continue," he said in a speech in Rosemont, Illinois.

Moskow said he expected growth to pick up close to trend in coming quarters, or 3.0 to 3.5 percent GDP growth, although he conceded the path of recovery was uneven.

Neither of the regional presidents is a voting member this year of the Fed's policy committee, which has left rates at a four-decade low of 1.75 percent since last December, after 11 rate cuts to ease the impact of last year's recession.

Most Wall Street analysts expect the Fed to keep rates steady through the end of the year at least, while it waits for the recovery to pick up steam. However, some say the economy will stumble enough to require further rate cuts from the Fed, most likely by December.

But senior Fed officials, including Minehan and Moskow on Monday, have recently sounded reluctant to extend last year's easing cycle, saying policy was already stimulative. ***Reuters***

Critics hit Fed chief for 'mistakes' in interest rate policies

WASHINGTON—As he begins his 16th year in America's toughest economic policy post, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan has seen better days. He is beset by second-guessers who blame him for a range of economic woes, from last year's recession to the $7-trillion meltdown on Wall Street.

Greenspan himself set off the latest round of nay-saying. In a recent speech, he addressed one of critics' biggest complaints—that the Fed was asleep at the switch in the late 1990s and failed to avert Wall Street's speculative bubble.

Instead of resolving the debate, Greenspan generated more heat. Princeton economist Paul Krugman, for one, contended that Greenspan had been "disturbingly evasive."

It is all a marked reversal from the view of Greenspan during the heady 1990s. Then, he held a near cult-like status on Wall Street. Books such as the best seller "Maestro" praised his management of the US economy and cited his steady hand in helping world markets recovery from the Asian financial crisis.

But America's record 10-year-long economic expansion ended in March 2001 and Wall Street has racked up huge losses over the past two years.

"Greenspan was a great hero when everybody was getting wealthy, but now that people have lost a lot of money, he is the goat," former Fed board member Lyle Gramley said.

Critics fault Greenspan on both sides of the interest rate equation.

They complain he failed to raise interest rates soon enough in the late 1990s to keep the speculative stock market frenzy from getting out of control. They say he overdid the credit tightening in 2000, thereby triggering a full recession.

Greenspan's tenure as Fed chairman is exceeded only by William McChesney Martin, who had a 19-year run in the 1950s and 1960s.

The current chairman has been the target of second-guessing before—during the only other recession on his watch, in 1990-91.

At that time, much of the criticism came not from economists but from the administration of the first President George Bush. His economic team tried to get Greenspan to cut rates more aggressively before the 1992 presidential race. Greenspan and the Fed resisted;

Bush blamed his defeat in part on Greenspan's obstinacy.

By contrast, the current US administration of George W. Bush has given no hints of unhappiness with Greenspan. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill takes every opportunity to link his economic views with those of Greenspan, who has been content to leave interest rates at a 40-year low this year in an effort to revive the economy.

Despite those low rates, Democrats and Republicans outside the administration have challenged the Fed to do more to spur growth. Greenspan probably will hear those demands repeated Thursday when he delivers his latest assessment of economic conditions in congressional testimony.

Greenspan's main argument in his recent speech to a Fed symposium was that any effort to prick the stock bubble would have required pushing interest rates so high as to bring on that which policy-makers wanted to avoid: a recession.

Noted Wall Street economist Henry Kaufman and other analysts say the Fed could have used interest rates and other tools to keep stock prices from rising so high. One example: the Fed's power to increase margin requirements, the amount of cash an investor must put up when financing a stock purchase with a loan.

Some economists say Greenspan himself had considered trying to tame the market's frenzy but backed away after the storm raised by his famous question in December 1996 about whether it was possible to know when markets were in the grip of "irrational exuberance."

"Greenspan made one effort to tackle the bubble and when he did the whole world came down on him asking what right he had to substitute his judgment for thousands of investors," said David Jones, whose third book on the Greenspan Fed will be published this month.

Greenspan's supporters say a chief reason that Greenspan cited during the boom years for leaving interest rates alone has proved—that the country had entered a new era of higher productivity growth. ***AP***

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Airlines still recovering from Sept. 11

CHICAGO—When four airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a rural Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, it was clear to those running the US airlines that an epic disaster was under way.

It would be bad certainly. How bad, no one could say.

"I thought it was going to be a very long road to recovery," said a US airline executive who asked not to be identified. "It was immediately apparent to me."

There was no history to forecast the depth of the ensuing downturn in the United States or abroad. First and foremost in the minds of aviation industry officials was to make the skies safe.

US airs pace shut down for three days. Planes coming from abroad were turned back, leaving passengers stranded worldwide.

Fear was everywhere as tales unfolded of passengers and crews killed at knifepoint, planes overtaken and pointedly steered toward landmark buildings.

Executives at AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, which had two Boeing jets hijacked, quickly set up shop in the System Operations Control in Fort Worth, Texas, and worried over what to do with airplanes still aloft. The same process played out at United Airlines headquarters in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

In the weeks that followed, as demand for air travel fell by about a third, American, UAL Corp.'s United and most other large US airlines laid off about 100,000 workers in total and cut back the number of flights by 20 percent. ***Reuters***

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

PRINCE EXEC VISITS MANILA FOR LAUNCH

Mike Ricketts (right), regional director for Asia Pacific of Prince Racquets, recently visited the country in line with the launching of three new Prince More Performance models: More Dominant, More Thunder and More Game. These new tennis racquets are designed to meet the needs of all player types—from the club player to the accomplished tournament player. Shown with Ricketts presenting Prince's new More racquet models are Sports Resources Inc. (SRI) president Rod Claudio (center) and SRI product manager Liza Enciso (left). Prince, the leader in racquet innovation and famous for the Oversize technology and now the Two Piece Power Lo'ck Construction, is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by SRI. The new racquets will soon be available at Toby's Sports, Chris Sports, Royal Sporting House, Manila Polo Club, JB Makati, and Olympic Village.

DLSU reoffers diploma program

THE DE LA SALLE University College of St.Benilde with the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) will re-offer its Diploma Program in Marketing Communications.

The Post-Baccalaureate Program in Marketing Communications Management is a series of certificate courses designed to share best practices, update the knowledge and enhance the competencies of marketing practitioners. The participant-student earns a diploma in Marketing Communications Management upon completion of the required six certificate courses. The completion of each course in turn, entitles the participant to a certificate of achievement. Marketing professionals and experts will facilitate the courses.

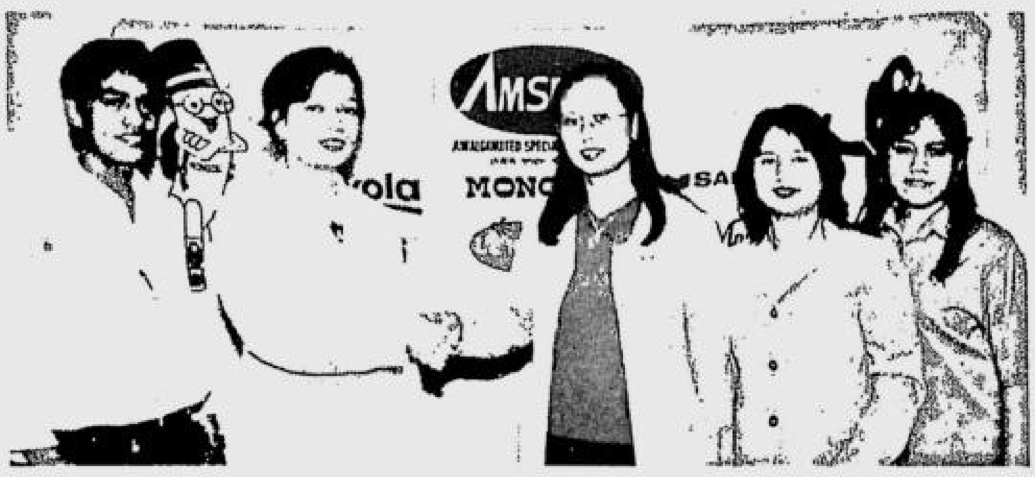
To qualify for enrollment, the participant should be a graduate of a four-year course and must be a business practitioner.

Course sessions are scheduled every Saturday from 1 a.m. to 7 p.m. and classes are held at the International Center of DLSU-College of St. Benilde, Arellano corner Estrada Streets, Manila.

Course fee per participants is P7,500 for Pana members and P8,750 for non-members. This includes hand-outs and snacks.

The next course will commence on Oct. 5 and will end on July 19, 2003. The six courses are market research and media planning. Building the brand, PR and advocacy marketing relationship marketing, web advertising and marketing and integrated marketing communications.

For inquiries and reservations, call DLSU-College of St. Benilde Certificate Program Center (CPC) at 303-9858 or telefax 303-9858 or the Pana office at 890-2989 to 91.



AMSPEC JOINS E-DUTECH 2002

The Amalgamated Specialties Corp. (Amspec Lil Hands), sponsors E-dutech 2002, the convergence of education events, to be held Sept. 18 to 21 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Mandaluyong City. Amspec is a school supplier. Organizers are Edutech Trade & Services Corp., Meeting Points International and Philippine State Universities & Colleges Computer Education System Society. Shown during the contract signing, from left, are Sally J. Bernardo, project director, Edutech and C. Antonette Ravana Severino, marketing manager, Amspec. Standing, from left, are Riza C. Avlan, business development manager, Amspec, Jonald Curioso, project officer, Edutech, and Beng Magcalas, event and club coordinator, Amspec.

Domino's initial promo winners

IN LINE with Domino's West Avenue's 7th anniversary bash, it recently announced initial winners of its "Dream Destinations" three-month promo activity. Lucky pizza lovers were 1st draw winner Diane Lizarondo winning an overnight stay for two at posh Edsa Shangri-La Hotel and 2nd draw winner Lia Angela Africa who will be enjoying 3 days and 2 nights at Boracay. Winning Domino's West Avenue gift certificates as consolation prizes were Larry Albonian, Greg de Guzman, Janice Cu Yak Po and Christopher Regino. The fun continues at Domino's West Avenue as the pizza delivery experts will soon draw the next lucky winner for a trip for two on a 3-day, 2-night vacation to Hong Kong. Just call Domino's West Avenue at 372-5555 and order any medium, family, or big family pizza. Promo runs until Sept. 13. Grand draw on Sept. 15.

BLIMS TIES UP WITH CTRC

Blims Fine Furniture recently signed a contract with Creative Training and Review Center (CTRC) in line with its thrust of helping uplift the standards and quality of interior design in the country. The partnership allows CTRC to conduct review classes in the training room of Blims' flagship store along Ayala Avenue in Makati City. It also gives CTRC reviewers access to a wide collection of furniture in the store that can be used to illustrate the concepts and designs taught in the classroom. At the same time, the center will provide Blims' in-house designers with the training needed to enhance their skills and help them keep updated with the latest trends in the furniture industry. Shown signing the contract are CTRC president Belen S. Morey (2nd from left) and Blims president Samie Lim. Witnessing the signing are CTRC reviewer and designer Cynthia P. Belleza (left), and CTRC director Leti S. Limpo.

Enhanced IVRS offers more convenience to Sun Life Financial policyholders

SUN Life Financial upgrades its Interactive Voice Response System to make life insurance maintenance easier, faster and more convenient. Now, accessing insurance details will no longer require a visit to customer centers or a meeting with insurance agents.

Dubbed as Seal (Sun Life's Easy Access Line), the company's IVRS enables clients to access insurance details and a host of services at the push of buttons using any touch-tone phone including mobile units.

Policyholders and agents can, among others, check policy values, confirm payments made, locate customer centers and accredited collecting banks, identifying payment modes, apply for credit cards, report claims and even ask about Sun Life's Financial shares through the new IVRS-Seal.

Karen Casas, client services officer of Sun Life Philippines, said, "Policyholder can use the IVRS from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Mondays through Saturdays." Beyond this time, Casas said policyholders can still use the IVRS to leave a recorded message that Sun Life Financial customer service facilitators will attend to immediately on the next working day.

"This new IVRS-Seal integrates more tightly with the company's call center flow and will provide faster service to Sun Life Financial agents and policyholders," Says Nilo Zantua, IVRS-Seal project manager and head of Central Systems—computer operations and network management.

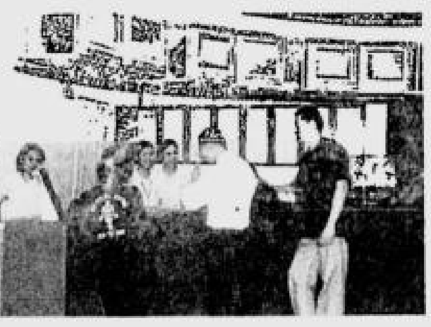
PMA BACOLOD, AIM LEAD CO-PRESENTORS

Philippine Marketing Association Bacolod chapter president Josefa A. Puentevella (center) signs memorandum of agreement with Asian Institute of Management (AIM) president Roberto de Ocampo (2nd from left) as co-presentors of the 1st Western Visayas Regional Marketing Conference to be held at L'Fisher in Bacolod City on Sept. 20 and 21. The signing was witnessed by PMA Manila representative Sarah P. Velasco (left) and Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr., PMA chair for chapters (2nd from right) and AIM executive managing director for institutional marketing group Ofelia Odilao-Bisnar.

Product FILES

Philips ties up with Gold's Gym

PHILIPS Electronics gets into fitness as it ties up with Gold's Gym, the largest and most famous gym chain in the world. The Glorietta branch of Hollywood's top gym now houses only the top TVs from Philips. A series of Philips Flat TVs at the posh reception area greets visitors to the gym. The Philips TV wall monitor serves as the stylish hub of information for the gym's many clients. Those working out will enjoy watching different shows on the giant Philips TV as they sweat it out, while getting sounds from the provided headsets.



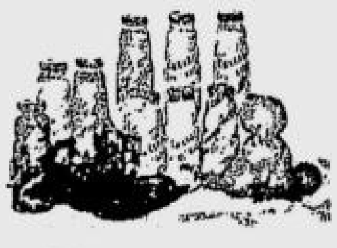
The electronics giant's partnership with Gold's Gym reflects its support of a positive and healthy lifestyle. Gold's Gym has been the authority [illegible] fitn[illegible] and is present in 24 countries around the world.

Successful debut for Kassatly Fruit Juices

WITH NUMEROUS visitors flocking to its booth, Kassatly Fruitastic Smoothies and Natural Fruit Juices certainly made a refreshing Philippine market debut at the recently held Asia Food Expo 2002 at the World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

"The response was really heartening," said a representative from Fomaz International Trading, exclusive distributors of Kassatly products, "and we would like to thank all those who visited our booth."

Kassatly beverages, creations of a 30-year-old company involved in producing and exporting different kinds of beverages all over the world, are often described as fruity, fun, fantastic and "really defines great taste". Kassatly Fruitastic Smoothies comes in various thirst-quenching mixed flavors like Mango-Passion, Strawberry-Apricot, Pina Colada, and Tropical Exotic. Kassatly Fruit Juices, on the other hand, serves orange, apple, grapefruit, lemonade, tomato and even rose water.



Call 855-8237 or 38 for details about Kassatly beverages and juices.

A purely organic, healthy, natural lifestyle

THE FIRST Organic Harvest Festival comes to life from Sept. 12 to 15, at the Convention Hall, fourth floor of the Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, Edsa, Quezon City.

With the theme "Discovering the Natural Lifestyle—a blend of nature and science," the festival is spearheaded and organized by the Organic Producers and Trade Association (Opta), a non-profit volunteer organization which promotes a healthier lifestyle and safer environment through organic agriculture and consumption.

The Organic Harvest Festival is a comprehensive yet purely organic show that will present an alternative lifestyle to today's stressful environment. It aims to increase public awareness on healthy living in a healthy environment. The exhibit will be subdivided into four pavilions: Alternative/Herbal Medicine Pavilion, Environment/Waste Pavilion, Organic Farming Pavilion, and Restaurant Pavilion.

The exhibit will showcase anything and everything healthy and natural like organic food and drinks, natural health foods, personal care products, alternative/herbal medicines, organic livestock and dairy products, health and organic-related equipment, machinery and services.

The four-day event will feature healing gardens, daily seminars and cultural presentations, an organic culinary contest, a mini concert and the Recycled Fashion Show Challenge to be participated in by selected Metro Manila schools. Children will also be treated to fun-filled activities like contests and story-telling sessions. To highlight the festival is an evening of organic fashion shows that will feature creations by well-known designers Paris Tesoro and Dita Sandico-Ong.

Opta is now accepting reservations for exhibit and seminar slots. Interested parties and individuals may contact the exhibit manager care of Convex International at 726-4128 to 30. Inquiries may also be directed to Opta at 371-2347 or 373-5474.

DUMEX 4Q SEARCH WINNERS

Winners of the 4th quarter selection of Dumex' 'Search for Fitter, Brighter Champions' pose with Dumex officers, panel of judges and teachers of The Little Gym. For the toddler category, 2-year-old Kristine Angela M. Gelua bested 9 other finalists, while 5-year-old Arabella S. Belleza of the pre-school category won over 8 finalists. Each of the winners brought home over P40,000 worth of prizes consisting of home learning educational materials and Dumex milk products, while the finalists got over P5,000 worth of Dumex milk products and P500 worth of Mercury Drug gift certificates. Shown are, from left, Little Gym Teacher Evy, BFAD representative Lou Molina, Dumex group product manager Eugene Go, selection panel chair Dr. Ma. Isabel Avancena, Dumex mascot Dex, Kristine Angela and mom Jocelyn, Arabella and mom Mehetabel, Dumex national sales manager Tata Albert, Little Gym teacher Anna and Dumex product manager Raffy Santos.

BREEZE WINNER REVEALED

The recent weekly draw of the Breeze promo produced a winner—Edgardo Anude of Pasay City. Shown drawing the winner at the Unilever plant is, from left, Maricel Culanay and Che Cabayan-Verdan, consumer advisory service, Hy-C Chan, Tricia Niles, senior brand manager for Breeze, and Katrina Santos, assistant brand manager.

EQ PRIMER

EQ competencies make 'star performers'

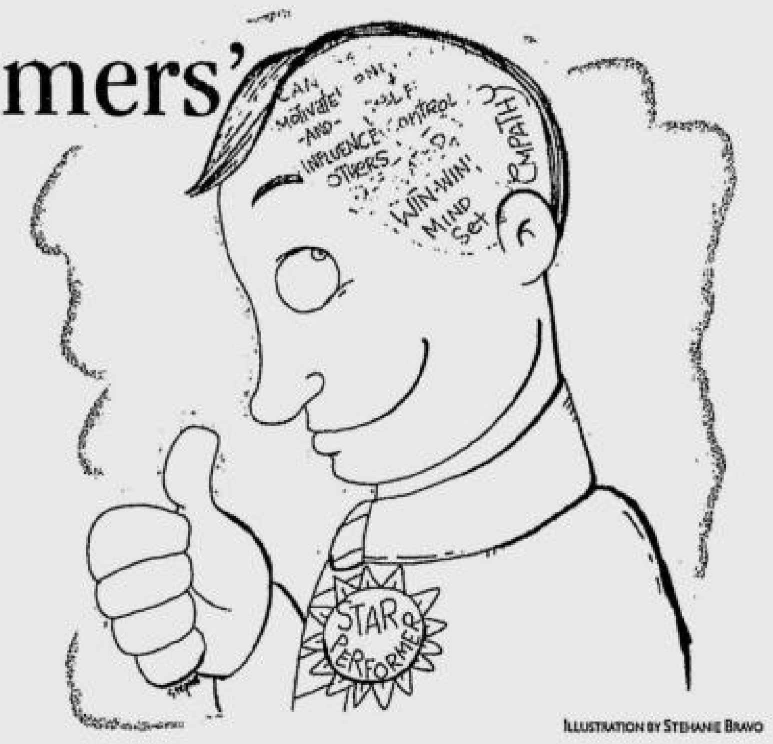


ILLUSTRATION BY STEHANIE BRAVO

By **Josie O. Santamaria**

(This is the fourth of a series of articles on emotional intelligence.)

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS show that emotional intelligence or EQ competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social skills are important. Often, the ads specify that applicants must have self-confidence, the ability to work as a member of a team, and the ability to relate well with others. Technical skills, the appropriate educational background and work experience, and good IQ are not the only qualifications required from applicants.

Research has shown that technical expertise, IQ and cognitive abilities coming from the left and right sides of the brain are no longer enough to enable one be successful in higher level positions. An effective leader must have self-confidence, self-control, the ability to motivate and to influence others, empathy, a high achievement motivation, and a win-win mindset among others.

Impact on performance

In 1996, the late Dr. David McClelland, the famous Harvard University expert on human behavior in organizations, published his findings from the cross-cultural research he had conducted. Among the more important findings were the following:

* The higher the rank of a person considered a "star performer," the more EQ capabilities showed up as the reason for his/her effectiveness.

* High EQ is directly linked to high performance.

In a later study of Dr. Daniel Goleman, the results of which were published in 1998, the emotional competencies of "star performers" were compared with those of the average ones holding the same positions as far as achieving targets were concerned. The findings of Dr. Goleman corroborated those of the late Dr. McClelland. The highlights were the following:

* There is a high positive and direct relationship between EQ and effective performance.

Ÿ All star performers had high EQ.

* About two-thirds of abilities essential for effective performance were emotional competencies

* At the highest levels in the organization, the difference between superior performance and average performance depended almost completely on EQ.

On the other hand, a study in 1990 by the Center for Creative Leadership in the US showed that executives who had experienced career derailment had two common traits: rigidity and poor interpersonal relationships.

Talent retention

Another factor that strengthens EQ's importance in the workplace is globalization, which impacts on talent retention and diversity in the workplace.

The challenge for leaders is to retain their top talents who carry with them the knowledge of needed by the organization. With stiffer competition in the market, there is a higher risk of losing talents to competitors. Leaders often face the dilemma of developing talents and then losing them later on. But though coaching, mentoring and counseling, all of which require EQ competencies, they develop strong and positive relationships with their talented employees.

Globalization also places leaders in a situation where they have to manage a very diverse workgroup. This requires them to be sensitive to cultural nuances, to the subtleties of non-verbal communication, and to unspoken messages.

Acquiring EQ

With EQ competencies directly correlated to peak performance and leadership, the development of EQ in organizations becomes top priority. Fortunately, studies have down that while high EQ may be inherited genetically, it can also be acquired or learned. Just how much is contributed by heredity and by nurture has not yet been determined. IQ, on the other hand, is determined by heredity, which in turn, determines our mental capacities.

To illustrate, the behavior of one- or two-year olds at play show their genetic capacity for EQ. A child with inherited high EQ can easily play with other children, shows a capacity to give and take and to share, and can learn simple social skills taught by adults. Those who have no inherited high EQ tend to be loners, are easily upset by the presence of strangers, get toys of other children, and have difficulty following training in simple social skills.

Those who are not born with a high EQ can acquire such competencies. Training, maturity and age play a big part in developing or enhancing EQ. While age and maturity are key factors in EQ, still, based on observations, that there are some people who don't become emotionally intelligent with age. They show immaturity by being self-centered, by thinking only of their own self-interest, or by displaying their temper tantrums in public.

'Media should be an agent of truth'

POSTCARDS *from the* **CORPORATE EDGE**

By **Atty. Felipe L. Gozon**

(Recently, Postcards has been featuring CEOs' thoughts and opinions on various issues. Another CEO, the Chairman of GMA Network Inc., Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, shares with readers his thoughts on Philippine media's role in society. Below are excerpts of his talk on the issue at the General Membership Meeting of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines last July.)

MEDIA is probably the most powerful influence on the way people think and believe these days. And this is frightening for us. Because with power comes responsibility and though many of us revel in the former, some of us do not practice the latter.

Responsibility

With your indulgence, let me say that GMA Network strives for a balance of power and responsibility everyday. Our News and Public Affairs Department tries to do what is right on a per story basis, every newscast, every show day in, day out. We believe that even if some issues are gray, our principles can and should only be black or white, as much as possible. So that whatever murky issue faces us, we try to do what we believe is right in the circumstances.

Because more than being a peddler of news, we believe that media is and should be an agent of truth. I submit that we can be true to our profession without sacrificing our business objective. In the long run, and for the large part, credibility in news reporting is what sells more.

Media as 'scalpel'

On the issue of media being a peddler, I would like to share with you the teaching of Justice Malcolm on freedom of speech or of the press in the landmark case of US vs. Bustos (37 Phil. 731, 740-741), a case decided in 1918, whose validity and vigor have not waned over the vast expanse of time since then.

In the artful language of the Justice: "The interest of society and the maintenance of good government demand a full discussion of public affairs. Complete liberty to comment on the conduct of public men is a scalpel in the case of free speech. The sharp incision of its probe relieves the abscesses of officialdom.

"Men in public life may suffer under a hostile and an unjust accusation; the wound can be assuaged with the balm of a clear conscience. A public officer must not be too thin-skinned with reference to comment upon his official acts. Only thus can the intelligence and dignity of the individual be exalted.

"Of course, criticism does not authorize defamation. Nevertheless, as the individual is less than the State, so must expected criticism be born for the common good. Rising superior to any official or set of officials, to the Chief Executive, to the Legislature, to the Judiciary-to any or all the agencies of Government-public opinion should be the constant source of liberty and democracy."

Transparency

And in the very recent case of Chavez vs. PEA (G.R. No. 1332-50), promulgated on July 9, 2002, the Supreme Court clarified that no less than the twin provisions of Sec. 7, Art. 111 of the 1987 Constitution on the right to information on matters of public concern and the right to access to official records "seek to promote transparency in policy making and in the operations of the government as well as provide the people sufficient information to exercise effectively their constitutional rights "and that" these twin provisions are essential to the exercise of freedom of expression…and to hold public officials at all times ... accountable to the people, for unless citizens have the proper information, they cannot hold public officials accountable for anything. Armed with the right information, citizens can participate in public discussions leading to the formulation of government policies and their effective implementation. An informed citizenry is essential to the existence and proper functioning of any democracy."

Freedom of speech

The freedom of speech and of the press which were transplanted by the Americans to the Philippines in the Philippine Bill of 1902-which served as the first organic act of the Philippines-were not only reiterated in the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions but were even strengthened and the room for their exercise expanded in the 1987 Constitution.

Thus, considering that media is the most effective means, if not the only effective means, by which the people are informed about their government's operations, transactions, policies, decisions and acts, and other matters of public interest or concern, I submit that the instances when the media can be said to be improperly meddling are limited only to those recognized exceptions to the exercise of the freedom, like privileged information, military and diplomatic secrets, matters affecting national security and public order, the laws on libel and slander, the limitations contained in the applicable code of ethics of the media practitioners, and the accepted standards of good faith propriety, morals and customs.

Bring new vigor, excitement to your job

By **Joel Garfinkle**

WHEN you begin to lose joy in your work and find the day-to-day grind not fun anymore, you might have a tendency to want to quit at that moment. This isn't the most practical solution. You may have to stick it out for a few more months or even for a year or two because of your personal obligations such as financial security, mortgage, debt and children. It's frustrating to have to stay at a job that doesn't bring you enjoyment.

When you lose excitement for your work, how can you bring new vigor to your relationship with your job?

Here are some suggestions to help you:

1. What are the top five things you like most about your work?

It might seem hard at first to start this list, but you'll be surprised what you come up with once you begin. By making this list, you will have found things about your work that make you feel good. For example, do you enjoy: working with and developing your staff, solving the problems of your employees, giving presentations, having brainstorming sessions, teaching others how to do a skill or completing projects?

2. Which one of your coworkers could you cultivate a deeper friendship with?

After you name at least one person, spend time making this relationship more meaningful. This will cause you to have better feelings for your work because of the support and friendship.

3. What people at your office enjoy their job and how can I learn from them?

Name at least one person you know who could be a model of someone who has a good relationship with his or her work. By observing that person, you can learn to enjoy a job, even when it seems difficult or stressful.

4. What are the five things that cause you the most stress at work?

After reviewing this list, circle the three things you actually have control over and could improve. If you don't have anything that you can change, make a new list with three things you can change. This exercise is about improving at least some of the conditions and perhaps making the overall experience more pleasant. By focusing on things you have control over, you'll be able to increase your self-fulfillment at work.

5. What steps could you take this month that would help create the future you truly want?

In my coaching practice, 80 percent of my clients are currently working while they are trying to define, land and live their dream job. This process can be done efficiently and effectively while working. I notice how my clients gain passionate energy as they begin the process, and this supports their current work because they know they won't always be at this job. They begin to feel a choice in their lives. They now realize they can leave this job, and they don't have to stay where they don't want to.

6. Create a schedule from now until the job ends.

If you know you are leaving a job at a set time (for example, three or six months from now) create a schedule in which you can do one thing each day to get you closer to that time. Staying focused on the end will allow you to feel better about your current situation because you will become aware that the end is close.

7. Do informational interviews with other employees of the company you work for.

This will open up possibilities you might not have considered within your company. Perhaps you can make a lateral shift. This might cause a drastic change in environment and increased satisfaction in your work.

8. Have a vacation away from the office.

By taking time away from the office, you will revitalize yourself. This will give you perspective and clarity about your situation. You might come back with a new vigor for your work and realize that the job really is a situation that you need to get out of.

9. Take a class involving subject matter you enjoy-supported by the company.

By using the company to help support your personal goals, you will be bringing the personal satisfaction you get from the outside education into your current work. This could create more enjoyment for the work you are doing.

10. Focus on what is going well.

It's easy to be immersed in the things going wrong when you don't enjoy your job. If you change your focus, your attitude might change, and thus your relationship to work has the chance to improve.

11. Create accomplishments at work that can directly affect your resume.

If you know you are leaving a job, direct your energies toward distinct results that can show up on your resume when you are ready to leave. This will inspire you toward the future you are looking to create.

12. Take breaks away from your office to revitalize yourself?

Take 15-minute breaks throughout your day. When you are able to take time away from your work environment, which you don't enjoy, you revitalize yourself. This time away gives you perspective and clarity for your situation. Thus, you won't be inclined to react-versus respond appropriately-to situations you don't enjoy.

13. Change your work week from five days to four days a week.

If you could increase the number of hours you work per day so you could take one day off a week, this would help you feel rested and restored. Upon returning to your work, it might feel as if you took a vacation because you were able to take care of yourself on your day off.

The important thing is to improve your situation and do it as soon as possible, because to not enjoy your work-something you do forty, fifty, sixty plus hours per week-takes a toll on your personal life. The goal is to improve your current situation at work because, as your relationship to your job improves, so will your attitude. Improve that which you have control over at your work. It's not about doing your job the same old way, but about improving the small details that will make a big difference in your relationship to your work. This will help you be ready for a career transition when the time arrives.

One other thing, don't work too hard; when you don't enjoy it. I know we have deadlines and don't directly have control over the hours we work, but it's important to create balance in your life. Spend time on activities outside of work that give you great joy. Creating and having fun outside of work is something I want for each and every one of you.

By building on what you do enjoy and lessening what you don't, you'll create the winning strategy to gain back the excitement for your work. Abraham Lincoln said, "I do the very best I know how-the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end.

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Ancilla launches HR Advance!

ANCILLA Enterprise Development Consulting forges ahead to co-develop another world-class tool that enhances enterprise effectiveness with its strategic partner in technology, Pivotal Technologies. The company recently launched an innovative tool in human resource management called the HR Advance!, in time for its 10th year anniversary.

HR Advance! is a computer system designed to make the daily management of people, of HR-related data and activity more efficient and productive. Designed with the Ancilla best practice framework that is based on a competency-driven paradigm on the various skills and job knowledge levels of employees, the system complements existing human resource practices with electronic forms, reports, internal communications applications and more.

This new HR tool promises to enhance enterprise effectiveness through the optimization of the office network, maximization of company work time and concrete implementation of a paperless office environment

Ancilla
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING

MR. Jamike Lopa, president and CEO of Pivotal Technologies signs the agreement for the marketing of HR Advance! with Ms Tita Puangco, Ancilla president and CEO. At the signing were: Ancilla's managing consultants, Cia Lopez, Agnes Santos, Lot Ortiz-Luis and Ancilla COO, Linda Esguerra.

Young entrepreneur asks, 'How can I rekindle excitement of my staff for work?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I AM a 24-year-old entrepreneur and I have built a company with several stores and 65 employees. I graduated with a business degree. I am very good with numbers, but not with people. When my business was just starting, the few people who worked for me were highly motivated and committed. They would work beyond regular office hours if necessary to serve customers. But now, it looks like people are no longer excited to go to work. I read in a book that it is important for a company to have shared values. Please share with me practical and common sense techniques to build a strong corporate culture.

Successful Entrepreneur

Congratulations for succeeding in business at such a young age! It is typical for startup companies to have a lot of excitement and passion about the work. People do multiple jobs, work on startup salary levels, and no one minds the late hours. But as an organization grows, the urgency at which work has to be done diminishes. Instead the organization enters the "systematizing stage" where corporate systems are set-up to establish routines and procedures that make life in the enterprise more predictable.

' At this stage, it is critical for leadership to actively influence the creation of the corporate culture. Culture, broadly defined, is the "collective programming of the human mind." It is something that is shared by all or almost all members of some social group and in this case, the members of your company. It includes values, attitudes and behavior.

Shared values

To start building your corporate culture, gather together your managers and supervisors to define the values for your company. These values should be those that will help your company to succeed and grow and at the same time, appeal to and inspire your employees. After defining the values, you can then look at practices or behavior that demonstrate these values. Communicate the values and practices to all employees. Some companies even provide employees a plastic card that showing the company values and practices, vision and mission.

You can also sponsor value formation or enhancement training programs. These are programs where employees discover their personal vision, mission and values and align them with those of the company. Each of the corporate values is explored and employees come out of the programs with resolutions to live the values. These create much fervor and a feeling of harmony in the organization. But these have to be sustained.

Role models

Leaders at all levels, especially at the store level, should constantly role model and communicate the values in daily work meetings or regular weekly business meeting. In fact, doing "pep talks" that rally people and make them feel good about the company and themselves are important.

One person who does this very well is a younger sister of mine who heads the Citibank consumer business. One of her managers shared with me how she regularly talks with personnel of the different departments. She also welcomes personally every new employee that gets on board. She explains with a candid yet caring manner policies that may be difficult for employees to appreciate. Just like you, she is an accountant by education and has a good head for numbers. But she succeeds because she has strong faith and a genuine heart for people.

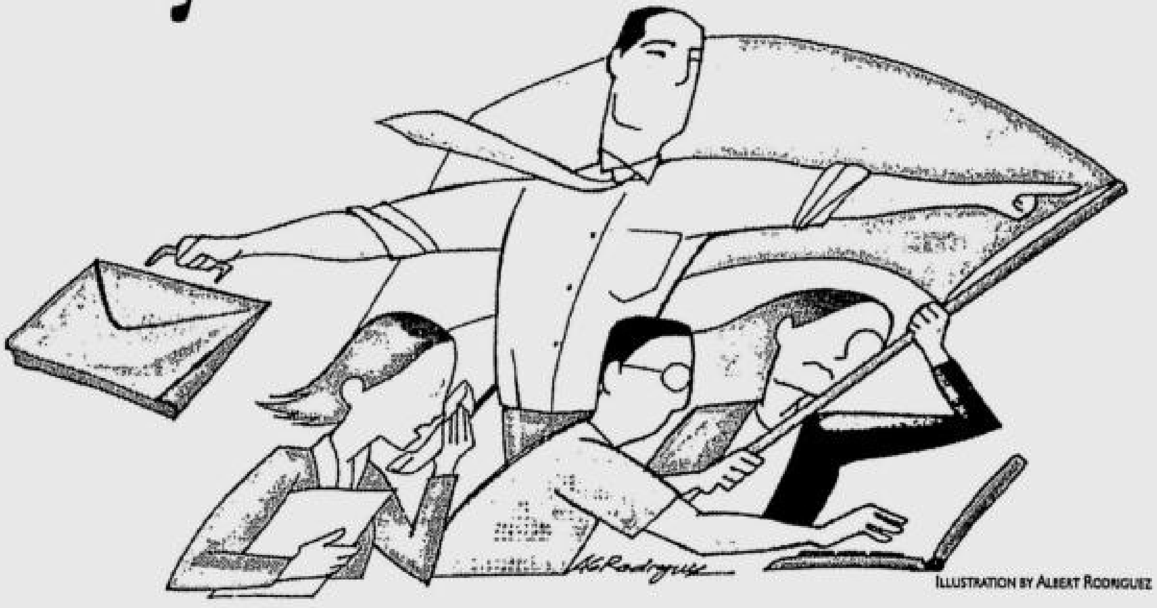

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

You can also try "culture interviewing." This is a one-on-one conversation with an employee, to bond with the person and at the same time, reinforce corporate values and perspectives. This motivates and inspires the person and make you as an employer more accessible and more human.

Why do we need to constantly rebuild relationships at work? Today's business environment is more complex and demanding. Often, in pursuit of business results we forget that relationships can get strained and people may notice a difference between the corporate values with the way they are lived. Culture interviewing will allow leaders to put in context what is happening on the business side. It also allows the leader to constantly have the "grounding" to actual situations necessary to be effective.

Rituals

Create rituals that highlight what is important. If a customer sends a commendation letter about a saleslady who gave extraordinary service, you may want to create a simple ritual. Surprise the person with a commendation memo and a small token. Rituals are treasured and well remembered specially in our society.

Make the work environment fun. Phil Geldart in his recent book, "In Your Hands," notes that the "results of our activity are always best when we love what we do, and it's easier to love something that's fun". He says that no matter what the task, there's no reason not to enjoy it. Play enhances creativity and communication. Surround the task and the people performing the task in a climate of fun. This climate promotes teamwork, encourages commitment and more fully engages the whole person.

All the best and do give me feedback on what works.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Should I start my own business?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I just took my company up on its offer of a buy-out package. Now I'm struggling to decide if I want to do the corporate thing again or if I should use some of the money to start my own business.

My Way

Your letter brought to mind the recent wedding of Janet Downes. As at any wedding, there were cake and flowers. Music swelled as the bride entered the room to her guests' admiring sighs. But then things took a turn for the different: Janet turned to a mirror and recited the vows to her reflection.

The blushing bride had decided to celebrate her 40th by marrying herself.

Odd? Yup. But that's what you'll be doing if you decide to hitch yourself to your own business. Once you sign on those dotted lines (bank loans, corporate papers, etc.) you'll have consummated a deal that demands a tireless commitment. If you've been a long-time corporate wage-earner you'll have to work extra hard to give up your "bachelor" ways of thinking, acting and behaving. So before you make the leap, ask yourself the following questions. Also check out Marty Nemko's book, "Cool Careers for Dummies" (IDG, 1998).

1. Can you commit to your business 'til death (or the IRS) do you part? Can't wait to "make your own hours?" Think again. Those hours will be round the clock, filled with stress, and will take you away from your family, friends and any facsimile of leisure for at least a couple of years. There's a reason why male entrepreneur's wives are often called "widows."

2. What kind of marriage is best for you? A traditional one with the rules spelled out? Or a swinging thing where you make the rules up as you go? Traditionalists might think about a franchise: with their ready-made structures they're easier to handle than a business built from scratch. Swingers might be better building a business of their own.

3. Can you keep your honey in the money? Money! It's the biggest source of problems in a marriage-and in new business ventures. The challenge isn't just the initial capitalization. It's the inevitable cash crunch that comes a few years down the pike, the one that sinks even the strongest business ideas. No one thinks worst-case scenario the day he ties the knot, but successful entrepreneurs have to because it's going to happen.

4. Can you lure loads of people to your party? Every entrepreneur imagines the throngs of customers who will eagerly embrace his product or service. What they fail to realize is that every customer is (pardon my language) either a virgin or experienced. Virgins are people who have never used your type of product and need to be convinced to start; experienced users are already in bed with the competition. Wooing either requires work. Have you got a realistic plan?

Do it right and you can find entrepreneurial bliss. But think carefully before you take your vows, because when you marry yourself, divorce is hard to come by.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: What would be the hardest thing about starting your own business?

-Not being part of a team, 6.6 percent
-Lack of a regular paycheck, 45.1 percent
-The risk of failure, 48.2 percent

Our winning strategy for starting your own business comes from Peter R. in Cairo, Egypt (proving no country has a monopoly on wounded workers!). "Put yourself on a strict salary, just as though you were working for strangers. Reinvest part of any excess income to be used only on 'rainy days.' Don't hide under a bushel, publicize yourself by writing articles and letters to the editor. Finally, believe in yourself. If you didn't think you were smarter and more stubborn than most others you probably wouldn't have gone into your own business in the first place."

BUSINESS
CORPORATE
₱

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to strategically package yourself for success

DING

by Ricky B. Garcia

THE FORMULA for success includes strategic personal packaging. While it may be comforting to cling to the idea that substance is more important than the "superficial" exterior, that idea is outmoded. Studies show that a person with a positive professional image projects power and confidence that is impossible to deny.

Discussing this issue in the People at Work segment on Studio 23's Breakfast recently were Breakfast host Bam Aquino, Inquirer co-host Celine Madamba and guest Mariecor Salas Ding, the president and managing director of MSD Personnel Development Consultants.

Below is the gist of that segment:

PaW:What is image?

Ding: Image is defined as a simplified attitude or impression held in common by members of a group about a more complex entity such as a person, product or company. Image management is the careful guiding of your "good name." It's about packaging what people see in you.

Corporate America, for example, hires image consultants responsible for turning image into profits. Some of America's most admired companies like McDonald's, Walt Disney, J.P. Morgan, to name a few, use their corporate image to create competitive advantage.

PaW:Does it affect performance?

Ding: Oh definitely! Your image is a valuable asset, it helps you make friends. A good public image builds client loyalty. It motivates your employees, it helps you survive difficult economic times and it attracts funding investors.

A weak image, on the other hand, is a liability. It can cost you lost opportunities, it can drive you out of business and, like the weather, people remember your image when it is extremely bad or extremely good. In the case of job seekers, for example, your resume gets you the interview but your image gets you the job.

PaW: How and why is clothing an integral part of communication?

Ding: As Robert Pante says, "Your clothing must be equal to the quality of your life." Why? Because wardrobe strategies are methods that express our lifestyle and our profession. Historically, it conveys information about an individual's status, background, occupation and region.

People ask me, why wear a suit? I say, because it immediately establishes your position--subordinate, equal or superior--in a face-to-face business situation. It's a symbol and carries authority and power.

A business suit covers the greatest portion of the body--making it the central power garment and it carries the greatest psychological impact. Men and women in suits are more likely to be respected, trusted and obeyed. But don't forget your shoes.

PaW:How can you use clothing to create a positive impression?

Ding: By experimentation and exploration. In experimentation, know the important message that you should be sending for any specific situation and select your clothing to convey this image message. You can test your message by wearing specific colors, styles and patterns for a day or two and noting down reactions.

In exploration, observe role models, watch your most successful professional peers, and learn from the way they dress to achieve your "look." Enhance your physical assets and choose appropriate fabrics, patterns and colors to project the kind of image message you want.

Clothing reflects your status, authority, power and rank. It also says a lot about your personality, like, if you are friendly and dependable. It also conveys class distinction--upper, middle, or lower class--your character, and taste in good judgment, trustworthiness , and of course level of success.

PaW: What are the strategies for selecting clothing and accessories that create personal style?

Ding: I would do a wardrobe audit, group clothing according to color (white, beige, red, orange, yellow, etc.) and shade (light to dark). Clothing and accessories may also be organized into three lifestyle groups: professional, leisure and evening wear. Group each lifestyle into jackets, blazers, blouse, skirts, pants, slacks, etc. You can create a sentimental "pile"-- classify in this group any item you have not worn in the last six months. Include items you are not ready to give away.

PaW: Can you share with us tips on how to blend one's personal style with the company image?

Ding: The ideal working image can be projected by wearing simple classic outfits. Stay away from wild prints, too much brilliant colors or too soft pastels. Dresses, suits and blouses are your best bets.

PaW: How do you project the most effective image possible when in meetings, presentations or media conferences?

Ding: In business, your image should project responsibility, respectability and trust. Generally, don't put two different patterns or print next to each other. Darker colors say you are a decision maker but avoid looking dull and uninteresting.

PaW: How can we improve our body language?

Ding: Check your bearing and body movement. The way you walk reflects how you feel. How we talk and how we react to certain situations support our professional image.

PaW: What aother advice can you give working people?

Ding: Learn the appropriate ways in business introductions, touching, handshakes, laughter and "power seating."

Keep current. Read trade journals, fashion magazines and newsletters from other professions. Be curious, ask questions, and keep up with change. "You're only as good as your last accomplishment."

The most important thing to remember is: manage your image or your image will control you. Forget about moving up the corporate ladder. Focus on making 'you' your career.

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

‘How can I rekindle excitement of my staff for work?’

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If a picture paints a thousand words, multimedia messaging service or MMS will speak volumes.

MMS builds on the staggering success of SMS. But instead of being able to send text-only messages or pictures and graphics; an MMS enabled mobile phone will open up a world of personalised multimedia content - you'll be able to capture and/or exchange digital images, listen to audio along with voice and text, and later even video clips. *(Depending on the service network, people who don't have an MMS enabled phone will receive a text message informing them that they've received a multimedia message, which can then be retrieved on the internet!)*

On the move with MMS.

Multimedia
Options
Back

Like text messaging, MMS is instant and can be sent from any location.

With MMS, messages can be sent not only mobile-to-mobile. But also mobile-to-email and eventually email-to-mobile.

What's more, MMS is richer in content - not just a 'standard' text file, more like a multimedia presentation. Some mobile phones will come with a built in editor and camera, so you can create a slide-show or even digital postcards which you can then instantly send to friends or colleagues.

The fast road to 3G.

MMS is the standardized end-user service for the latest third generation, (3G mobile phones) that will be rolled out soon.

3G will be the difference between using a snail-like dial-up phone or a super fast cable connection to surf the internet.

With the GPRS connection for MMS enabled phones, users can access the internet and gather information in an instant.

Changing the way we live, work and play.

Mobile phone users are always looking for new tools that offer complete connectivity. Plus, it has to be easy to use, simple and accessible in various situations.

We want our information and we want it now! Whether it's news, stock quotes, games or advertising alerts - what's more, we want it all while we're trotting the globe.

Thankfully, with this technology you can have your cake and eat it. MMS will transform the mobile phone into the centerpiece of your personal and business lives.

Something for everyone.

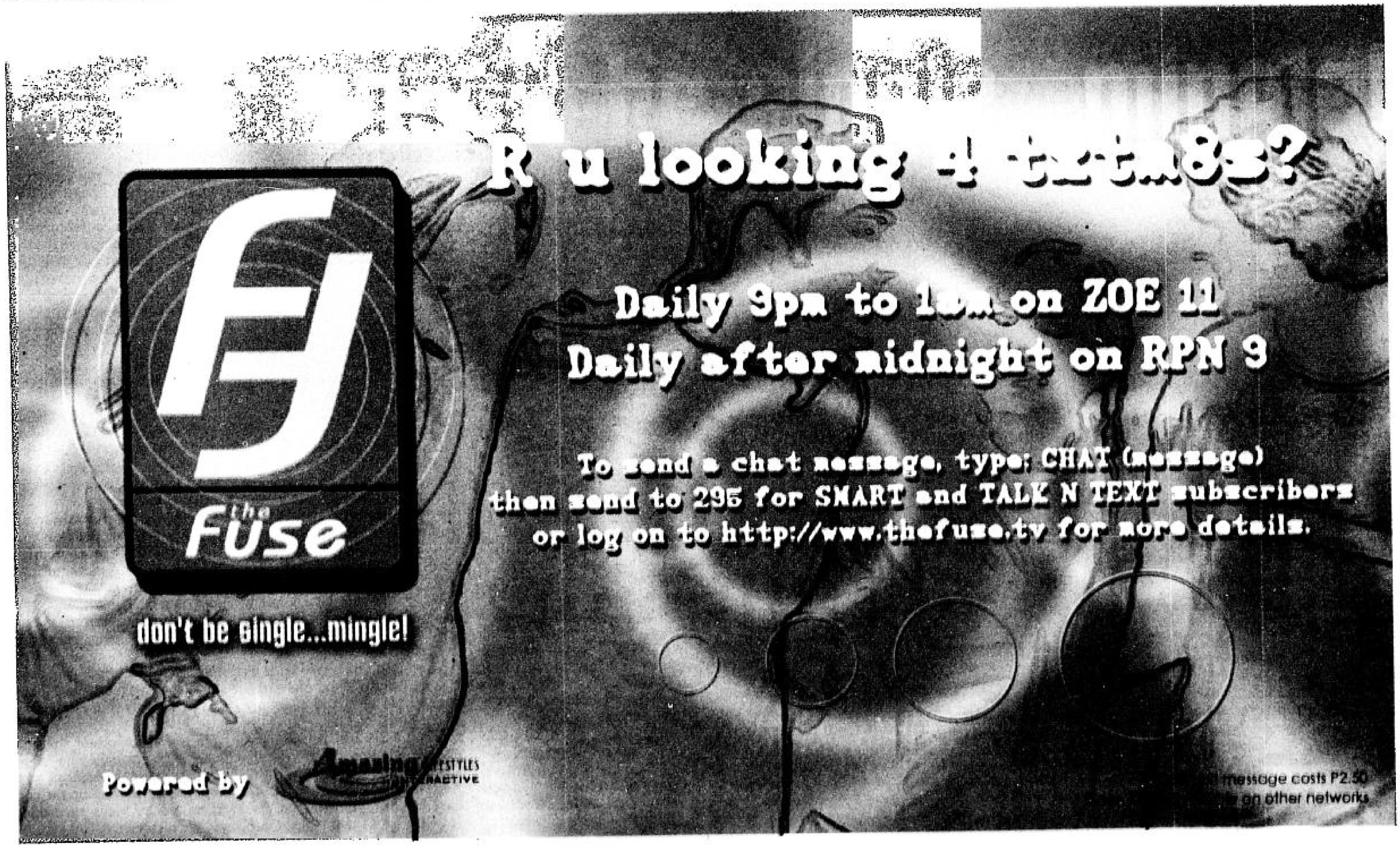
For mobile phone operators, MMS provides a natural migration path in messaging. Multimedia data will provide new services beyond voice. Data services will enable increase of airtime and revenue, differentiate services offered and build customer loyalty.

For content providers, MMS will be a springboard to a mass market of value added services. The MTV-paced media industry will find that MMS fulfills its criteria for fast, to-the-point, personal and visual tools. For advertisers, MMS offers effective one-to-one marketing which can be tracked.

For consumers in today's global village, MMS breaks down linguistic and cultural barriers. In the knowledge economy, MMS tips the scale in favor of business professionals who have and want information in a snap.

Soon MMS will be the language on everyone's lips...or rather, at everyone's fingertips.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE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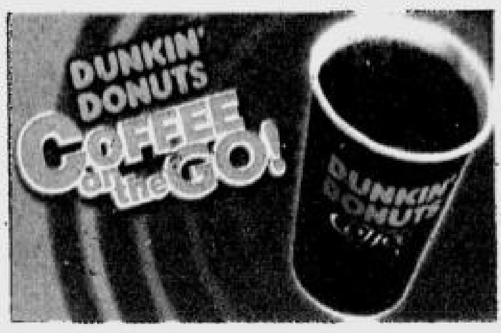
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Part 1

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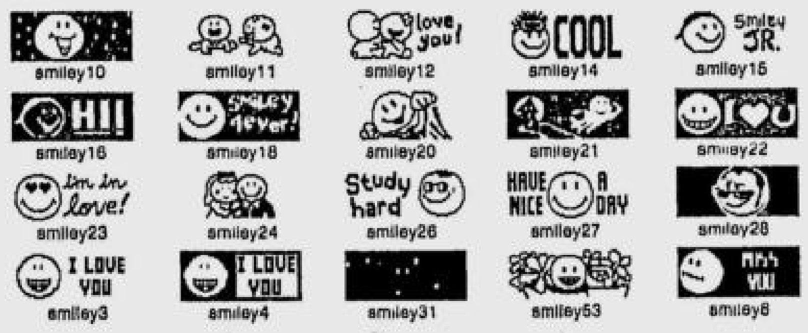
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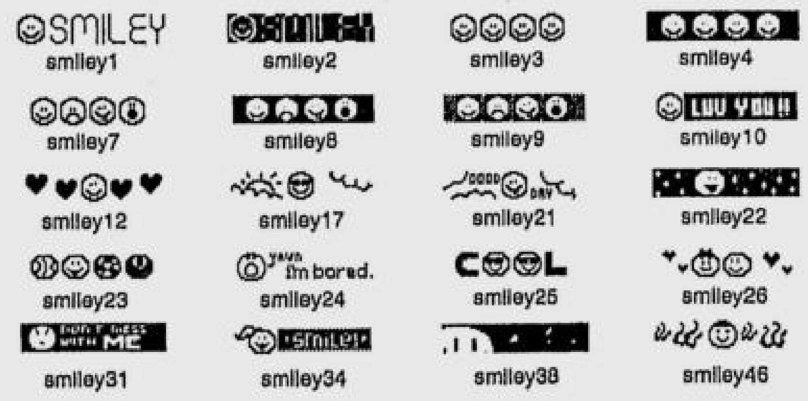
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RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
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MORE THAN A WOMAN	morethan	AALIYAH
PRAISE YOU	praiseyou	FATBOY SLIM
RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW	righther	FATBOY SLIM
ROCKFELLA SKANK	rockfela	FATBOY SLIM
GANGSTER TRIPPING	gangster	FATBOY SLIM
THIS I PROMISE YOU	thisipro	NSYNC
BECAUSE I GET HIGH	igethigh	AFROMAN
WHAT CAN I DO	whatcani	THE CORRS
FULL MOON	fullmoon	BRANDY
ALL YOU WANTED	youwanted	MICHELLE BRANCH
HOW YOU REMIND ME	howyoure	NICKELBACK
BLURRY	blurry	PUDDLE OF MUD
SOAK UP THE SUN	soakup	SHERYL CROW
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
I NEED YOU	ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
A THOUSAND MILES	athousan	VANESSA CARLTON
ORDINARY DAY	ordinary	VANESSA CARLTON
SMOOTH CRIMINAL	smoothcr	MICHAEL JACKSON
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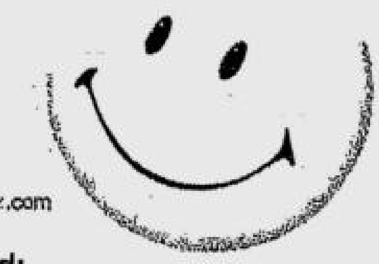

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For tones, type in N (keyword) (mobile number).
Ex: N geturfre 09171234567

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Bag lady for a day

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

The author discovers that there is more to bagging than just dumping items into plastic bags

By Pam Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS are in order. I have achieved the impossible (for me, at least). Nine hours of bagging and I didn't break anything, not even an egg. I did cut myself on the packaging of a wooden spoon, but the blood is gone. Now, only a faint scar is left on my right hand—a little memento of the day I spent as a bagger at Shopwise.

Perhaps, it can be considered fortunate that just a few weeks before my little stint, I came face to face with Miss Bagger-from-hell.

I was so gaga over "Lilo and Stitch" (probably because this excellent cartoon jumpstarted what has turned out to be the best romance of my life—but enough digression) that I hit the toy section of a popular department store the first chance I got to buy myself a Lilo doll.

Carefully, I handed my precious doll to the cashier, who swiped Lilo through and passed her on to Miss Bagger-from-hell. The witch held Lilo at arm's length, scrunched up her nose and said, "*Bakit kaya mabili 'to? Ang pangit naman.*"

And although I wanted to say, "*Mas maganda siya sa 'yo,*" I just gritted my teeth. But the witch wasn't done yet. Just as she was wrapping Lilo up, she said, "After one month, *mas mura na 'to. Mahal pa ngayon kasi uso eh.*"

I gave her the evil eye, grabbed the bag containing my precious Lilo and walked away. If I didn't want the doll so bad I would have smacked her with it and left.

Made a mental note of that little event and told myself—rule number one when it comes to bagging, never make snide remarks about a customer's purchases.

Grand plans

Fast forward to a week later. Made grand plans for my bagging experience. Had visions of myself psychoanalyzing customer's purchases. I actually believed I could try and figure out what kind of people they were based on the things they had bought from the supermarket—similar to my theory about how the contents of a guy's wallet can tell you a lot about his personality.

Fast forward to a couple of weeks later. After store manager Fernan Dulce gave me a short briefing, and Ms Christine gave me the basics of being a "counter checker," the politically-correct term for "bagger," I found myself standing behind one of the counters of Shopwise on Pasong Tamo in nondescript jeans, white shirt and white sneakers. My happy beads had to be left in my bag as no jewelry was allowed, and my long hair had to be tied back.

Plastic bags of various sizes were in front of me, waiting to be shaken out and used, while avalanche after avalanche of purchases slid towards me, waiting to be bagged fast.

The first challenge was to be convincing enough for the other employees to believe I was one of them. The fact that I was the only female counter checker in the entire place proved to be a problem in the beginning. A little scenario kept repeating in my first few hours of working: I'd be putting goods inside a bag when a male counter checker would grab the bag from me and apologetically say, "*Ako na po*, ma'am." I would then flash him my tag which reads "Pam Pastor—Counter Checker Trainee" and the guy would let go of the bag as if it singed him and say, "Sorry, *akala ko* customer *ka*." This little episode happened a grand total of 12 times, no exaggeration. Other counter checkers would approach me and say, "Cashier *ka*?" I'd reply, "*Hindi*, counter checker." And they'd say, "*Ows*?"

Since the employees of Shopwise weren't in on the plan, I heard all sorts of speculations.

"*Estudyante daw 'yan, gumagawa ng* thesis." "*Sa* 'The Correspondents' *ka ba? Nasan ang* camera man?" "*Sa* 'Probe Team' *ka raw, 'di ba?*" "Writer *ka, ano*?"

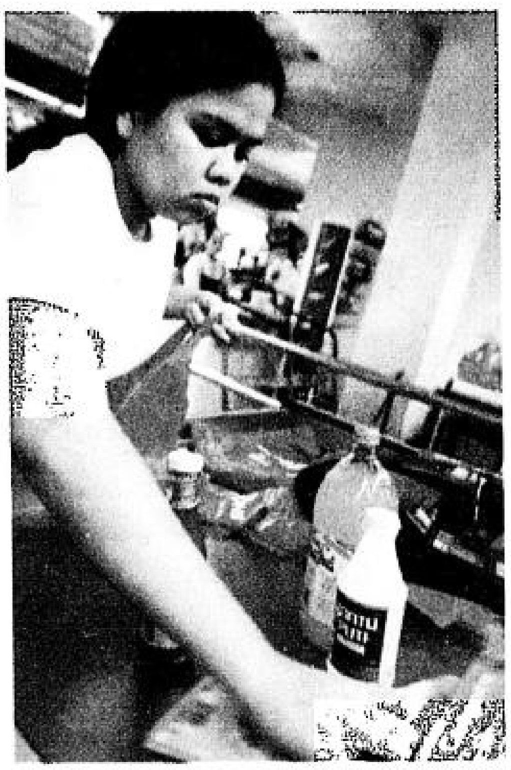
Having fun

The cashiers and counter checkers who knew who I was kept checking if I took a break or if I wanted to rest. They kept asking if I was tired. But I was surprised as they were to find out that I wasn't. I was having fun. The employees of Shopwise worked like a team. One was not assigned to any particular counter—one could jump in anywhere, anytime. I experienced the teamwork first-hand. Counter checkers would run to each other's rescue when there were too many items that needed to be packed and sometimes, even boxed. The camaraderie between the cashier and counter checker was also something I enjoyed. Roma and Melanie were particularly friendly.

The first thing I learned as a bagger: when you're new and struggling to get the hang of it, you've got absolutely no time for snide remarks and definitely none for attempts at psychoanalysis. Your main concern is to be able to bag the items fast and correctly. I tried to make it a point to have the bags ready by the time the cashier handed the customers their receipts. No time wasted, no waiting, no irate customers, no trouble.

As far as I'm concerned, there are only two kinds of customers—those who act like you don't exist and those who acknowledge your presence. Those who belong to the first type make you feel like a ghost—it's like they can see through you. In their heads, you are not human; you are merely a machine that has been programmed to wrap their purchases. And you feel that every single time someone grabs the bags from your hands without giving you even a tiny nod.

The second kind of customer can further be divided into two categories—those who are pleasant and those who seem to have walked through the store's doors to make your life miserable. The amiable customers smile and even make small talk as you bag their groceries. Others snap at you for no reason. One old European man with a thick accent sneered at me and said, "Dewn't pit dee eggz eynd woyn tigethah. Thot's tha woyst thing yew can dew." One old woman with her hair done and sprayed to crusty perfection hissed at me, "*Huwag mong daganan ang ubas*!" Yeah, like I was going to.



THANKS TO MR. FERNAN DULCE AND JENNY PAGALILAUAN OF SHOPWISE

Mixing

Other customers insisted that I put all their purchases in one bag— even when it was evident that the whole mountain of items they bought wouldn't fit in a huge garbage bag. There were those who opened food while shopping and then expected me to reseal the items. I didn't know what to do with an opened bottle of milk—especially since the customer threw away its disposable cover. Other customers watched me like a hawk and told me how to bag their items, which would have been okay had they not wanted to mix insecticide with food items.

That is the number one rule of bagging—never mix food with non-food items.

Although this little tidbit might have escaped you, there is actually an art to bagging. After a few hours, you realize that one look at a huge pile of items is all it takes for you to be able to automatically categorize them and figure out how many bags and which sizes you'd be using.

I liked packing disposable diapers, crisps and vegetables. I detested bottles in fear of breakage, and huge things I didn't know how to wrap. Didn't like bagging meat and fish, either. Wanted to put up a sign next to me—"Say hello to the vegetarian packing animal carcass." I felt like an accessory to a crime.

Little kids were a delight to bag for. They were the only ones who looked at me in admi ration as I skillfully and methodically wrapped their purchases. Theirs were the only eyes that expressed a desire to do what you are doing.

When you get home after a trip to the supermarket and you unpack what you have bought, you never really think about the people who put your cereal or your toothbrush or your favorite drink inside that bag, do you? Perhaps you should. Because when they get home from work with their feet, legs and backs aching, I'm pretty sure they remember you.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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What is the job you won't take for granted?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

Despite being gainfully employed, some people still crave their dream jobs

DURING these times when people go to great lengths to get a diploma and acquiring one doesn't necessarily mean a fulfilling, well-paying job, work is regarded more and more as a treasure. Still there are people who take their jobs for granted, despite the perks and the high pay. Discontented and ambitious people always look for a better job.

So here's a bunch of hardworking dudes who definitely wouldn't mind getting paid for doing their dream jobs.

Teacher, because the future of the nation depends on young people. What one teaches now will greatly affect the future.—**Jyoti Shrestha, 22, got harassed by a teacher in 1999**

VJ-ing. How can one take a job like that for granted when it's so easy and there are many perks that go with it?—**Valen Sta. Teresa, 19, hates Heart Evangelista**

My part-time job at Carl's Jr. is something that I never take for granted. The pay may not be impressive, but it does send me to school so that's enough for me.—**Michelle Tirona**

Once I finish law school, I'm going to be a full-fledged lawyer and I will definitely not take that for granted. Being a lawyer calls for focus, dedication and responsibility.—**Toto, 24**

Pag-aartista. Dream *ko talaga 'yun at saka ang dali-dali at ang sarap-sarap naman nun di ba? Lalo na 'pag hilig mo talaga.*—**Jennifer Castor**

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Ang pagiging yaya sa sarili kong mga kapatid. It's annoying sometimes. Very trying, *pero* part *na rin ng pagiging panganay.*—**Sherry Yu, wants her own *yaya***

My present job. I may be just a regular yuppie, but one should never take anything for granted.—**Andy Garcia, 24, but not that Andy Garcia**

Kahit ano.—**Rogelio E. Prudencio, 31, GMA-7 talent**

Since I was a child, I've been dreaming of helping street children. I want to become a public servant, someone who protects the right of the youth.—**Beth**

*Siguro eto na, kasi ang dami ko na ring nasubukan pero eto na siguro. Nag-e-*enjoy *kasi ako. Mahirap na masarap.*—**Niño Mercado, 21, makeup artist**

Mahal ko ang job *ko* because my boss *is* super-*bait* and *wala na siguro akong makukuhang* boss *na tulad niya. At siyempre, sa* salary *na natatanggap ko, nabibili ko lahat ng gusto ko. At kahit papaano, nakakatulong na rin ako sa aking pamilya.* Sales clerk *ako sa* SM North Edsa.—**Cathy, 22**

*Sa tagal ko nang nag-wo-*work *bilang* saleslady, *nakatulong na ako sa* parents *ko na maipagawa 'yung* house *namin.*—**Rossana, 21, Prescripto, SM North Edsa**

A musician. It's the only job I would never, ever take for granted.—**Biboi Cuyong, 21, professional bum**

Basta related *sa* music, because music is my life and soul.—**Jephthah Wenceslao of the band Virus Artists**

Being a psychiatrist. It's one of the jobs I will never take for granted *kasi* through it, I can help a lot of people understand themselves better.—**Venessa, 23, talent caster, RT Talent Pooling Center**

I want to be an artist portraying different roles in theater, on TV and in the big screen. If it's God's will, He will lead me to the right path.—**Mary Joy P. Daliva, 21**

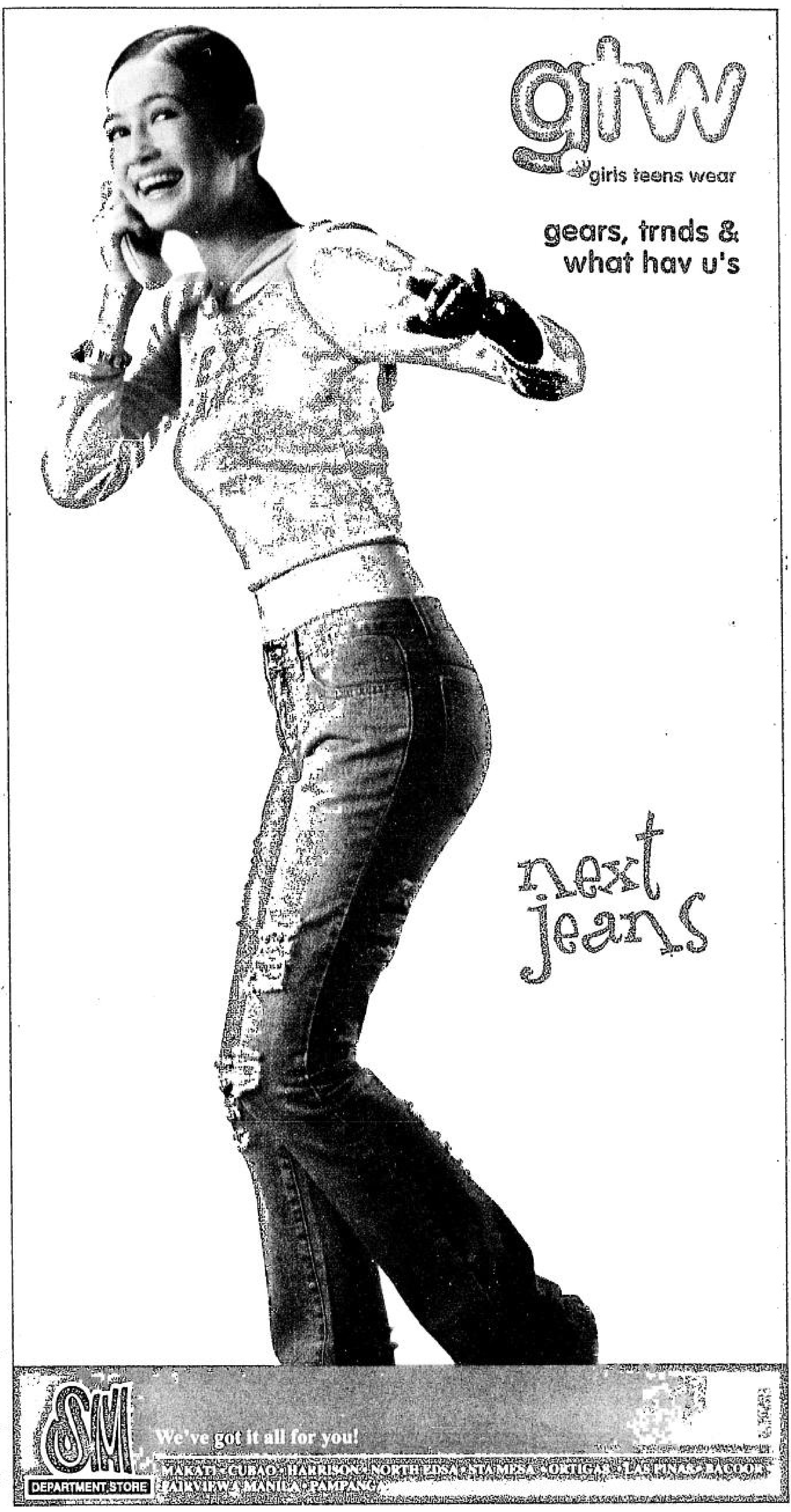
Any job that requires one to work at odd hours and sometimes, even during weekends and holidays.—**Chris, 23, works for a multinational company**

If ever I get a job as an environmentalist working for organizations like World Wildlife Fund or Unicef, I will definitely not take that for granted because that would be equal to winning the lotto for me.—**Katherine Fernandez**

A writer, because I believe that through writing, I can touch a person's inner self.—**Aileen Abadingo**

Being Gary V.! Because through my songs, I can touch, move, inspire, encourage...—**Gary Valenciano**

Jobless? Don't e-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com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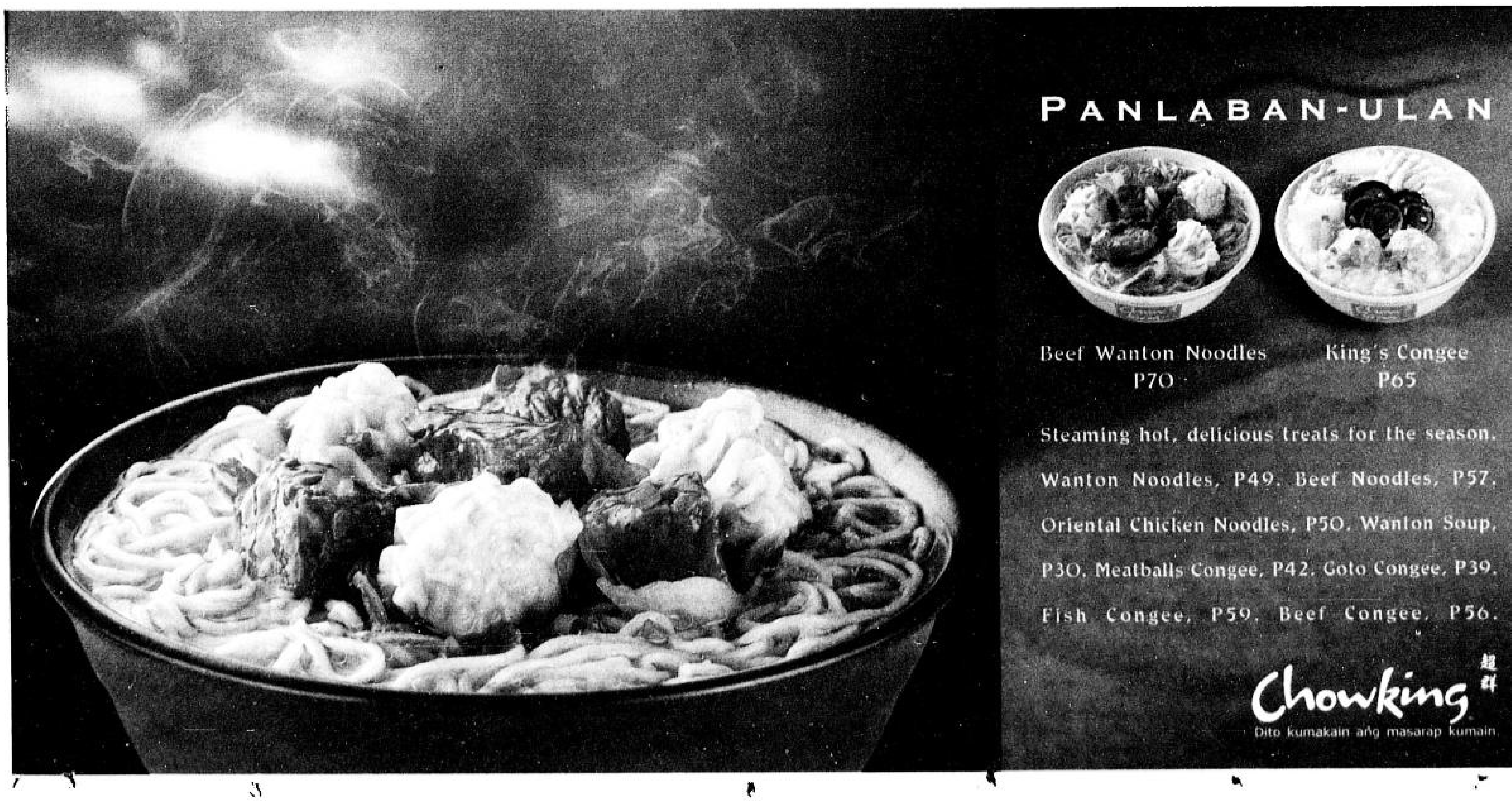
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Chowking
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.

The ups and downs of an elevator operator

PHOTO: TAMMY DAVID

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

I ALWAYS snicker whenever I see an elevator operator in malls or hospitals sitting in a stool, complete with a bowtie and black stockings, punching buttons. For me, it's silly, another *"onli in da pilipins"* case. That's why becoming an elevator person even for only a day felt odd.

As usual, I was late for "work," and since I wasn't able to call the management of Ayala regarding the dress code, I showed up in my one and only crisp white shirt, black pants and a hooded sweater. I also brought my boredom pack consisting of magazines, CD player with my compilation of "Elevator music," and a Tagalog romance novel. Since I couldn't stomach the tacky trash novel, I brought the Pinoy version of Sweet Dreams, "Una and Miguel," by Lilledeshan Bose.

No training

I started at around 2 p.m. The elevator is beside Burger King in the lobby of the Glorietta 4 cinemas, partly hidden. It had one stool in the corner, gloomy white lighting and no radio. People coming from the parking lots in the basement and employees of Ayala were the regulars.

Mang Noriel, one of the green-uniformed resident operators assisted me for two hours. It was a good thing that I didn't have to undergo training like Cathy Young ("I had to train to be a bee!"). Besides punching buttons, I was supposed to give greetings—"Good morning Sir! Ma'am! Welcome to Ayala Center! Floor, please. Thank You"—and wait and wait patiently.

Let the boredom begin

For the first 30 minutes, I was doing well, all game and attentive. But afterward, I was restless. I was humming, drumming my fingers against the wall, trying the elevator trick (if you want to cancel the floor, press the button again more than once) and chatting with Mang Noriel who had been on the job for a year. I asked him if he could listen to music, text or read while waiting like some elevator girls I had come across with. *"Hindi puwede, minsan puwede akong kumanta kung walang tao,"* he replied. He pointed to the camera at the ceiling, which explained why he couldn't sneak in anything. I guess this is the same reason why quickies in elevators are never a hit in the Philippines, or at least in Ayala Malls.

I asked Mr. Jerick Genepesaw from Ayala if I could at least listen to music. He said yes since I wasn't officially employed. So, I decided to read "Una and Miguel," which miraculously, for a 120-page book, I was done with after half an hour. At one point, when Mang Noriel had a break, I was alone, daydreaming that one of my hundreds of crushes would enter the elevator and I would accidentally press the emergency button...ewww. There were times the elevator was filled with kids; noisy ones who couldn't stay put. "Time Zone! Time Zone!" Aaahhhh, I reached for my discman and turned the volume way up.

I was listening to Coldplay's new album and, boy, did I absorb every bit of it. I could just imagine my fanatic moment with the band, where I would break down and tell them how much their record touched my life ("I was listening to it at a low point in life"). After Coldplay, I listened to Radiohead, which was more depressing. The only record that made my head bob and forget to contemplate was the Vanilla Sky soundtrack.

Sore

My fat rump was sore after two hours of balancing on the stool, so I took a break. I walked around the place and had a snack in Burger King. I went back after 30 minutes. Mang Juanito had replaced Mang Noriel. Both of them had eight-hour shifts, 15-minute breaks and 30-minute lunch breaks. Sometimes they had to do overtime until 1 a.m. They had gotten used to it, and they were very happy they at least had a job. Another plus of the job would be being in the same elevator with local stars. *"Madalas dito yung* action star *na si* Philip," said Mang Juanito.

My elevator stint was an experience like being in jail, I guess. It was like being grounded with pay. During the whole time, I wished I had brought my Zen manual, chatted with a couple of people ("Don't watch 'Unfaithful!" "Where did you get that shirt?"), made friends ("Hi, Manong!"), and being mistaken for being the kid of some boss, messing around the place.

I don't know what else an elevator operator does besides punching buttons and making sure their customers get to the right floor. Another purpose I can think of is making the whole 10-second elevator experience worthwhile—a chat with a customer, perhaps. Overall, the odd thing about being an elevator person is getting paid to do something a lot of people could do with little effort. Are we that *tamad*?

Boredom has its rewards

E-mail the author at tam_margera@hotmail.com

Playing porter to Olivier Martinez and Matt Damon

Cinema ticket clerks get sore from standing all day and get rewarded once in a while when Olivier undresses or Matt smiles

THANKS TO LAWYER ROLANDO DUEÑAS AND JERICK GENPESAW

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

COMING from my class in UP, I elbowed my way into Ayala Center's illustrious Glorietta 4 cinemas. I was most eager to spend two hours or so gawking at the jaw-dropping handsome face and physique of my demigod, Matt Damon, in "The Bourne Identity." But then, again, I had already been assigned my mission: to find Jerick Genpesaw. The tape self-destructed in five seconds, and fortunately enough, the nice theater manager amiably accommodated me.

PHOTOS: TAMMY DAVID

First things first—they're called porters or lady guards, not ticket checkers, ticket slashers or cinema entrance boosters. That perky "Hi Sir, Ma'am! Welcome to Ayala Cinemas!" is not part of their job description, but is good customer service. Porters stand in their booths for some 13 hours every day, with 30-minute lunch breaks. On Fridays and Saturdays, porters get to go home only after 12:15 a.m. because of the midnight screenings.

Contrary to popular belief, being a porter is no piece of cake. I should know: I had the chance to spend a whole afternoon trying to be one. By the time I reached home, my toes, legs and ankles were sore. With the help of Michelle Espino, the day's reliever, and Cinema 4 and 5's porter, Melrose Matutina, I was able to discover the ins and outs of a bustling cinema.

Senior citizens

Whereas ordinary audiences are charged P100 for regular screenings, senior citizens may avail of a 20-percent discount rate for tickets. But if you're a Makati senior citizen, you can walk right in for free. Some senior citizens watch the same movie day in and day out. According to one, she loved watching "Unfaithful," which had been running for about a month already. Some even slept inside the cinemas and snored their day away while Dennis Quaid pitched the ball in the movie "The Rookie." Porters checked closely the senior citizen IDs because there had been instances when their owners sold them to others.

Special privilege is also given to officials and deputies of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and officers of the Ayala Center. Porters can also watch movies for free during their dayoff.

Ticket sellers and porters have become very strict in implementing MTRCB ratings. The cinemas of Ever Gotesco were suspended for allowing minors in R-rated films.

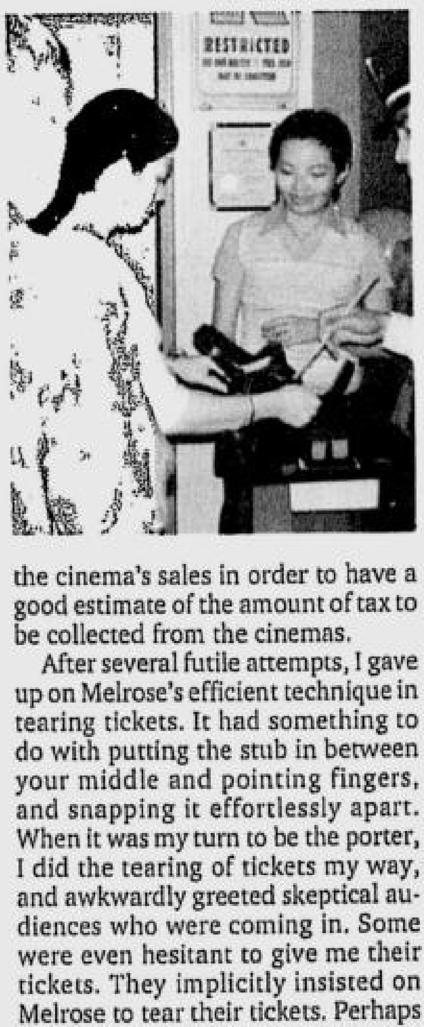
A pair of comfortable shoes is a must for porters, who are required to wear stockings, IDs and uniforms. Depending on the screening schedules, porters would come 30 minutes before the start of the first screening. They are responsible for checking the cinemas, the air conditioning, the comfort rooms, the lights, etc., making sure that everything is clear and ready before allowing people in. At the end of the day, they would stay for only 15 minutes more after the start of the last full-show, and the security guards would then take over. The stamps and pads are surrendered to the ticket booths while logbooks are forwarded to the lobby guard.

Screening schedules are changed every day, and every porter has her own copy attached at the back of her box. This includes the running time of movies so porters can satisfy inquiries from viewers. There are 30-minute intermissions between each screening, and the schedules posted would help them compute as to when a certain movie would end.

I was surprised to find relatively few people that afternoon, considering it was a Saturday. Melrose said it was still too early. She explained the peak hours were from 5 p.m. upward.

Ticket chore

As the people poured in, we would get the numbered tickets from the customers and tear them in half. One of the most important things to keep in mind was to leave the torn ticket with the highest printed number on top of the porter's box to know the "running number," which would provide a good estimate of the number of people inside the cinema. Each hour, production checkers from Warner and Columbia would get the ticket stubs on top of the box to monitor the number of viewers patronizing their films and to know the income of their movies so far. In addition, a representative from the Makati City Hall would also come each day to monitor the cinema's sales in order to have a good estimate of the amount of tax to be collected from the cinemas.



After several futile attempts, I gave up on Melrose's efficient technique in tearing tickets. It had something to do with putting the stub in between your middle and pointing fingers, and snapping it effortlessly apart. When it was my turn to be the porter, I did the tearing of tickets my way, and awkwardly greeted skeptical audiences who were coming in. Some were even hesitant to give me their tickets. They implicitly insisted on Melrose to tear their tickets. Perhaps I should have worn makeup, smiled a lot more and worn a uniform.

By the way, there was a huge orange balloon tied to the door. It belonged to one of the viewers who had walked in. It blocked out Olivier Martinez's beautiful French face. Had it exploded, people would have rushed out in panic. If that had happened, I would have rushed to Cinema 6 and fulfilled my wholesome Matt Damon fantasy.

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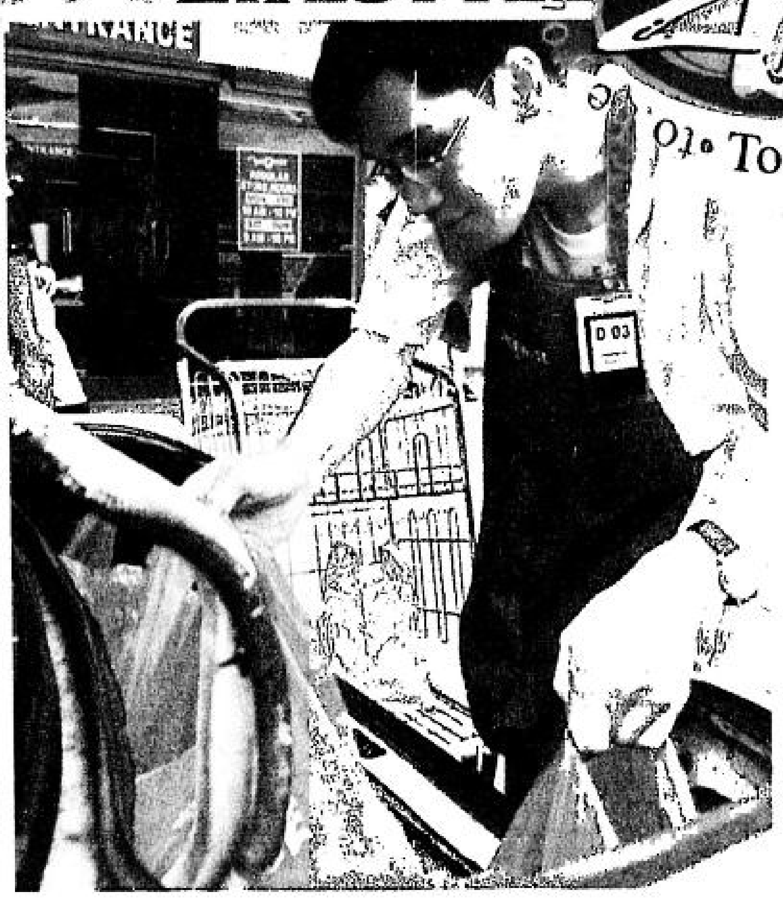
A different view of things

By Mark Andrew F. Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

I HAD always thought that being a package counter attendant and a delivery boy in a supermarket was easy. In the package counter, all you had to do was to get the package, give a tag, then get the tag and give the package when it was claimed. On the other hand, all a delivery boy had to do was to put the purchased items in bags, which were put in a big cart so they could be brought to a customer's car. I had very little appreciation for these workers until I did their jobs—for two days.



'I thought delivery would be a breeze but my first assignment was almost a disaster'

Delivery boy

Lota Amorin of Shopwise Makati's customer and courtesy service department gave me the basics of counter checking, particularly delivery. Counter checkers (baggers and delivery boys) and cashiers were considered frontliners since they were in direct communication with the customer.

"So it is important that they give the customers the best service by listening to them and giving their full attention to their jobs," Amorin said.

I thought delivery would be a breeze but my first assignment was almost a disaster. I didn't know that the delivery cart would be heavy. Maneuvering it was difficult, especially when negotiating stairs and bringing it all the way to the parking lot. I almost bumped the glass door of the supermarket and a parked car. The uneven sidewalks and roads made the task even more difficult.

Delivering to a condominium near the supermarket, I not only had trouble maneuvering the cart, I couldn't even cross the street. A tricycle barker had to help before I managed to cross. I almost freaked out when suddenly, a box of tissue fell off the bag. Worse, the customer saw it. Luckily, she let it pass. Another delivery boy helped me pick up the item. The other counter checkers as well as the guards gave me pointers later to make the task easier.

So for my other deliveries, I prayed for two things: that no item would fall off the cart and that I would not bump anything. After a while, things got a little easier.

Rains posed another challenge. When a heavy downpour occurred in the middle of a delivery, I almost got the shopping bags wet. Another thing I found tough at first was calling for a taxi for some customers.

My troubles suddenly vanished when a customer noticed my work. I was sweating so hard after several deliveries. A customer—a foreigner—noticed and asked the cashier if I were new.

"Yes, he is," the cashier said.

"He is so hardworking," the customer said. "Look at him! He is sweating because of you."

There were also funny moments. One customer could not believe I was a delivery guy, while another doubted if I could carry her purchases.

Tips

One of the perks of being a counter checker, particularly a delivery boy, was the tip from customers. During the orientation, Amorin told me to accept tips if offered. I hesitated at first but accepted them later on to make my act more convincing. The smallest tip I received was P5.20 while the highest was P20. At the end of the day, I received a total of P125.20, which was low compared to the total received by a real counter checker, which ranged from P150 to P500.

A counter checker warned me that in doing the job for the first time, I might experience some body pains at the end of the day. Fortunately, I didn't suffer any aches, maybe because I enjoyed the job.

Package counter attendant

The following day, back at Shopwise, I was assigned to the package counter. Kristine Vicencio, head of the customer and courtesy service department, taught me the basics of package counter work—where to put things customers would entrust to us. Shopwise has a separate counter for wet umbrellas outside the store. A logbook was at the counter to record unclaimed or lost items. Vicencio said the umbrella was the one item people were most likely to leave behind.

An employee warned me that the job could be quite dizzying. I found it to be true at first, as I was overwhelmed with so many items and number tags to sort out. I panicked at the thought of not finding the right item fast. It was also confusing having several people depositing and claiming items simultaneously. Good thing a real attendant was there to help. I was amazed that he knew where to find the designated numbers. It was then that I discovered that counter numbers were in ascending order. To find items easily, the attendant suggested that I placed small items in the middle counter and the big items in the lower counter. Big and dry umbrellas went to the topmost counter where a hook had been placed especially for them. Receipt and release of items was on a first-come-first-serve basis, and shoppers had to be asked politely to fall in line if there were several of them.

At the end of the day, my impression that the job was a breeze had disappeared. The job required presence of mind and quickness, especially during peak hours. A single item lost would be charged to the attendant.

As a package counter attendant, I was able to see different kinds of people—grumpy customers as well as kind ones, among others.

Patience was needed for the job. One attendant's patience was tried when a customer shouted invectives at him when he could not return his package right away.

"But I considered it all a part of my job and I just ignored it," the attendant said.

After working as a delivery boy and package counter attendant, I have developed an appreciation for the work they do and the service they provide customers. It was amazing to see the pride they had in their work despite the put-downs they got from some people.

THANKS TO MR FERNAN DULCE AND JENNY PAGALILAUAN OF SHOPWISE

E-mail the author at bedan_rainmaker@hotmail.com

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Learning my S, M, L and XL

By Anne Luisa Villarico
2bU! Correspondent

CUSTOMERS come in sizes S, M, L and even XL. A sales person, or SP, has to learn to guess a customer's size to help him/her and speed up the transaction.

I have been a customer in the past so I was eager to know what it was like on the other side of the fence—what SPs did, aside from tailing customers wherever they would go.

So, last Sunday, I spent the day working as an SP at Freeway, a girl's fashion boutique in Robinsons Galleria, from the time it opened at 10 a.m. until its closing time at 8 p.m. Clad in a yellow top, khaki pants and black shoes, I helped attend to customers' needs.

Liezl, Ester, Edith, Katrina and another Liezl were my co-SPs for the day. Each had other assignments aside from attending to customers. One Liezl also acted as cashier, Ester took care of stocks inventory, while the other Liezl handled sandals. Edith drew up the day's sales report.

During my first few hours, work was as dull as watching my nails grow. Very few customers came since the mall had just opened. I asked permission to eat my lunch, and returned after 30 minutes.

Without customers to attend to, all I did was walk around the store, occasionally checking out if the items on display were available in my size since I found the clothes stylish and trendy. Getting tired of just standing and walking around, I decided to sit on a bench to rest. But I noticed that none of the other SPs used the bench even just once. Liezl told me that SPs were not allowed to sit down. The only time they could sit was during lunchtime or afternoon breaks.

On their feet

My eyeballs almost popped out when she told me that they would stand for almost 10 hours a day, six days a week. "*Sanay na kaming laging nakatayo*," she said. Liezl explained that customers would not be encouraged to enter the store if they saw the SPs seated while waiting for them to come.

I was wearing my three-inch-heeled boots since I didn't have flat, black shoes, so there was a terrible strain in my feet by the afternoon. I felt as if I had heavy chains around my legs. I wished I could wear those kiddie rubber sneakers with rollers and skate around the store so it wouldn't be difficult for me to move around. To get some respite for my feet every now and then, I would rush to the stock room every chance I got and take off my boots.

Ample space

I observed that SPs in Freeway didn't crowd the customers. They gave them ample space to make their choices. The SPs would only assist when asked. I'm sure many customers are annoyed by the practice in some stores to have SPs following them closely as if they were likely to rob the store.

Liezl explained that the store had to reach its sales quota every day. Every SP had to work hard to achieve the sales target.

Whenever a shopper entered the store, I would have a very welcoming look on my face. A peso sign flashed in my eyes every time a customer decided to make a purchase, be it lip balm or trousers.

My first sale went really well. I held on to the clothes my customer had selected—looking like a personal *alalay*—while she shopped for more items. Her total purchases amounted to P1,425.

I also dealt with customers who would not buy anything, saying the items they had tried on did not fit them even if they actually got the right sizes, and snooty customers who took forever inside the fitting room. Of course, dealing with them was all part of an SP's regular working day.

Although an SP's job might look easy, they actually have quite a responsibility. They are accountable for any discrepancies that may occur while they are in charge of the store. SPs replace display items that had been sold, and make sure the inventory of sold and remaining items in the stock are tallied and sales records are balanced. As SP for a day, I saw to it that the clothes were in order and in their proper places.

At the end of the day, I learned things every SP should know—how to place and remove security tags in the clothes, how to compute the day's earnings, how to fold a sold item and place it in a paper bag, how to find things in the stock room, and how to break the news to a waiting customer that the item with the perfect fit and style was out of stock.

E-mail the author at inqsider@yahoo.com

PHOTOS: ALDWIN ASPILLERA

Sales people would stand for almost 10 hours a day, six days a week

THANKS TO SHEREE GOTUACO

Room service attendant for a day

By Alora Mae L. Uy
2bU! Correspondent

'I realized that I was better just standing, ringing the doorbell and shouting, 'Room service!''

PHOTOS: ALDWIN ASPILLERA

BLAME it on an incessant need to satisfy my curiosity. I had actually thought that I could take the role of a delivery girl with aplomb.

Armed with sheer guts and bolstered by thoughts of tips and handsome customers, I volunteered for the job. But when the assignment was approved, I could have kicked myself for being stupid. How could I, who did not have a license, drive a motorcycle? I certainly did not want to give money to a corrupt policeman. And even if I did not get caught, the idea of driving in Metro Manila was totally unappealing. I was in no hurry to meet St. Peter face to face.

So, when I learned that I would actually be delivering food to hotel guests instead of performing balancing acts on a two-wheeled vehicle to bring pizza and drinks to customers, I was elated. Make that very elated. Not even the Saturday schedule could dampen my mood.

Room service attendant? Hah! That would be easy, one I could do even with my eyes closed.

Call time

At 5 a.m., I went straight to the second floor of the Linden Suites, where Monsoon Restaurant + Bar (tel. 687-3755) was located. (Monsoon services the Ortigas hotel various food and beverage outlets, including room service.)

The staff must have found my outfit—tight-fitting jeans and a sleeveless blouse that showed off the henna tattoo on my upper left arm—unsuitable that I was immediately whisked off to the locker room.

I emerged a few minutes later looking like the room service attendant I was supposed to be, although everything—from the shoes to the nameplate (I was Celeste for one day)—was borrowed. The uniform was a perfect fit. Rhea dela Cruz, the pretty and very accommodating 2bU! contact person, joked about pirating me. She certainly gave me a lot of ideas.

Rhea paired me with the more experienced Jon Alvarez. I was in good hands, indeed.

Boo-boos

Jon gave me what could pass for a crash course on hotel management.

When the first call for room service was made, which was about 6:15 a.m., I immediately positioned myself behind the trolley, ready to push it. I now wish I had not done that because it was to be the beginning of a series of boo-boos.

It hurt to know that I could not even push a trolley properly. I was reminded of my first driving lesson—if I were in Baguio, I would have fallen off a cliff.

Setting up a table with people watching my every move was a daunting task. If I had my way, I would have locked them in their bedrooms first. (In fairness to the guests, they were all very nice and warm. The problem was my faltering self-confidence.)

I had to resist the urge to have dinner with the guests and watch TV with them. But it was not easy. So, I let Jon take the reins. After all, I did not want the food to get cold and drive away guests and potential customers because I was slow.

I realized that I was better just standing beside Jon, ringing the doorbell and shouting, "Room service!"

E-mail the author at a:oxtn3 @yahoo.com

THANKS TO JING JING ROMERO AND RHEA DELA CRUZ

Light bearer for a day

'When I had the chance to wield the magical beam for a day, I made sure I'd use it wisely, lighting people's paths to a very satisfying movie experience'

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

PHOTO: TAMMY DAVID
THANKS TO LAWYER ROLANDO DUEÑAS AND JERICK GENPESAW

I FEEL like a klutz when I'm in a moviehouse.

Groping in the dark, I always trip (like Gagay, Ang Prinsesa ng Brownout), bump against seats (like in "Kama Sutra 2"), step on poor people's pedicured toenails (like in "The Talented Mr. Ripley"), and basically have difficulty finding my seat when returning from trips to the restroom (like in, uhm..."Gigil"). I get very little help from the guy with the flashlight, who seems to be conserving his batteries.

So, when I had the chance to wield the magical beam for a day, I made sure I'd use it wisely, lighting people's paths to a very satisfying movie experience.

Glorietta 4's Cinema 3 is THX-guaranteed seats providing maximum comfort to 438 (or is it 466?) patrons. Without the premiere and de luxe sections, no one checks to see if a customer goes to the right section. But having guaranteed seats means tickets cost more; customers have to make sure they get their assigned seat numbers and they can only stay for one screening.

I assumed my role as usher after being briefed by regular usherettes Emily and Aleeda. I learned that my primary duty was to guide moviegoers to their assigned seats by lighting their way. After the film showing, while the janitorial staff cleans the theater for the next screening, ushers have to check for items left or misplaced, and give them to the Customer Service for safekeeping.

Piece of carrot cake, I smugly thought, with a flashlight in my hand.

Mr. Flashlight

When Cinema 3 opened, people poured in to watch "Signs." It was indeed a piece of cake—at first—while the lights were still on and people didn't have a hard time looking for their seats. When the lights were turned off, I officially started my job as Mr. Flashlight.

Some regulars knew their way around and needed no assistance. But many moviegoers had no idea whatsoever where they were supposed to go, totally unfamiliar with the seating arrangement.

Having only a short time to memorize the seat plan, I constantly referred to my *kodigo* as I started leading people to their seats. How embarrassing it would have been if I brought them to the wrong seats as I felt really powerful with my beam of light. I would have appeared immensely stupid. Fortunately, the worst that happened was taking people on a roundabout route instead of the most direct one. But then, they still got to their right seats, so I guess it was not a disaster. It was definitely better than getting comfortable on a seat only to be driven away by the real occupants.

My first 20 minutes as Mr. Flashlight was very challenging. People arrived in groups and I was kept busy going back and forth. When people stopped coming in, I decided to enjoy the movie like the others and focus on Joaquin Phoenix and his harelip. So, I started to look for a vacant seat, but then, images of the regular ushers and usherettes standing for more than 12 grueling hours flashed in my mind. I felt extremely evil and selfish.

And so, I watched "Signs" standing up, keeping in mind the other ushers' varicose veins for inspiration.

During the movie, people would make a quick dash to the rest rooms, trying not to miss much of the movie. They had very little need for my flashlight since there were lights to show them the way. But, at one point, I guided a woman from the rest room with my beam of light. When she passed by me, she whispered a sweet "thank you." It sounded so nice I had goosebumps, and it wasn't because of the air-conditioner.

When the end came, I was crestfallen. Firstly, I didn't catch any couple reenacting some R-18 (or Rated X!) scenes. It would have been an experience to actually confront and advise people to check into a hotel or motel (and maybe hand them a couple of condoms). Secondly, I didn't have good luck to come upon a forgotten 76-something unit (that cellphone with built-in camera), a crisp P200 bill or even a Jolina doll. Lastly—and this hurt the most—I only got to watch one movie. How fulfilled I would have been if I got to see that Rexona boy (okay, okay, and Maui Taylor, too) in a gigantic version onscreen.

That evening, as I got to bed, I came to a realization. Ushers stand for 12 or more hours doing nothing but wave their flashlights. I was certain that when they get home, a horizontal position was what they craved most. As for me, who immensely enjoyed lighting people's paths for a day, I couldn't get to sleep, and so I lay in the dark and played with a flashlight until the batteries went dead.

A friendship ruined by other people's negative comments

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I'm having troubles with my crush. I don't know how to admit my feelings to her.

We used to be friends, but something happened that ruined our friendship. Maybe it's because of the people around us who were so jealous when we were together.

Since we don't see each other anymore, I miss her so much. Can you give me some advice?

MR. AQUARIUS

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Let me be blunt: Do not care too much about what everyone thinks of you or says about you because doing that will only drive you nuts. You can't please everybody. So why not try to be happy for yourself, and for your girl? If she has reciprocated your feelings, then there's no problem.

I don't know how negative or how vicious the stories are that other people make up about you two but sometimes you just have to let opinions, comments and criticisms roll off your back like water.

If you really miss her, then go and meet her, have lunch with her, talk about things the way you used to. Distance, schedule, differences and all other constraints don't really matter if you want something bad enough.

Don't chicken out just because not everyone approves of what you'd like to happen; you certainly won't get anywhere.

SEP

Do you know what your problem is? It's the same problem MMDA chair Bayani Fernando is facing in this city. Overpopulation is everyone's problem. Whether on the train, on the road, or on the lookout for a nice patch of green grass to relax the eyes, all you'll run into is another one of us.

If you want privacy, wide, open spaces and peace of mind, look elsewhere. There's always Subic, Los Baños or Mindanao. Just don't come to this city and expect to pursue your hobby of cat swinging. Know what I mean?

The fact is, we get in one another's faces too often, too closely, too soon. Whether it's too many crooks, or someone reading over your shoulder, I get this creepy, crawly feeling that somebody's watching me. I can accept Big Brother—that's fine. But snatchers and pickpockets? No thanks.

I can empathize with you. The world has too many idle people who do nothing but meddle in others' affairs. They are called *uzis*, the peanut gallery, gossip columnists. Check out our local talk shows that would go out of business if we didn't know how to cry.

Did you watch Rex Navarrete? He says the only way to get Filipinos to move is to call for a picture-taking. Everybody crams as tightly as they can—in the center, of course—posing, knowing space is a premium. And everyone wants the best spot for everything.

Whether it's naïveté or the shame you bring on your brave ancestors who fought off the Spanish, your problem is self-inflicted. Your natural condition of passivity is your downfall; your lack of passion equals that of our mayors' to enforce the law; your interest in making your feelings known to this girl in the face of pressure by your peers has no gonads attached. There is only one person to blame for not trying. If you refuse to set your intentions in stone, then you will have nothing to stand by when the fan goes *splatatat*! If all of this is truly your lot, you might be on this earth to fulfill something else.

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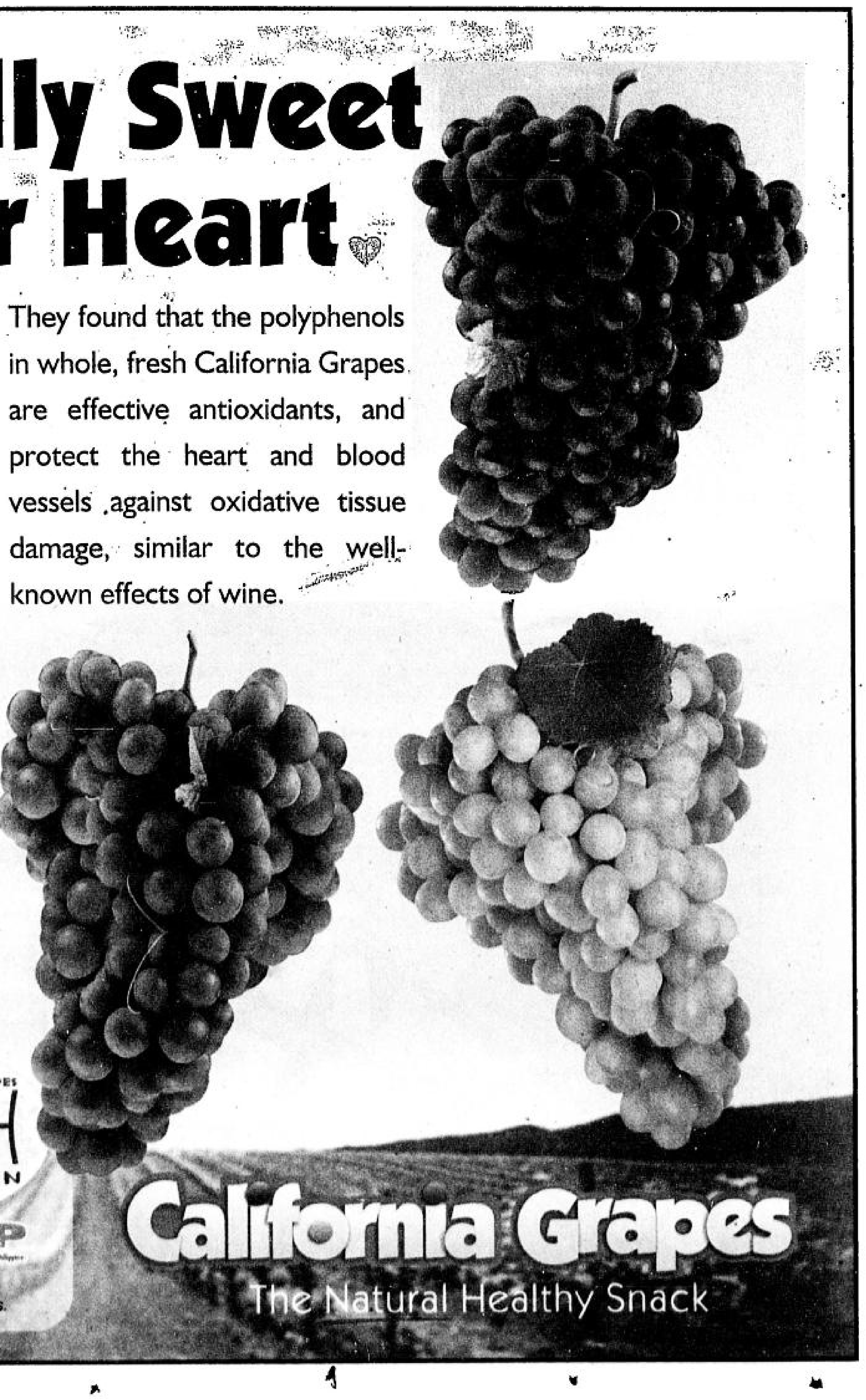
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-594 Series of 2002



The Naturally Sweet Way To Your Heart

Here's a delightful snack you can enjoy to your heart's content--fresh, mouthwateringly delicious California Grapes! Naturally sweet and enjoyable to eat, each berry is bursting with loads of healthy benefits!

We've always known that drinking wine is good for the heart. Recently, researchers from the University of Connecticut discovered that like wine and juice, California Grapes contain highly cardioprotective ***polyphenols***--disease-fighting phytonutrients such as resveratrol, anthocyanins, catechins and quercetin. They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.

In the same study, polyphenol-rich grapes helped improve blood flow, heart-pumping capacity and reduced the area of tissue death after a heart attack.

What's more, a second compound in grapes called ***pterostilbene*** (terro-STILL-bien) has been found to have cancer-preventing properties!

Agricultural Research Service (USA) research chemist Agnes Rimando at Oxford, Mississippi discovered that pterostilbene possesses similar chemoprotective qualities as that of resveratrol, another compound found in grapes. However, unlike resveratrol, this newly discovered compound is already known to possess anti-diabetic properties, and shows strong inhibitory activity against breast cancer cell lines.

With all these heartwarming news about the healthy benefits of California Grapes, treat yourself to a fresh bunch everyday--whether as an ingredient in your favorite dish or as a refreshingly sweet snack!

So follow your heart and satisfy your sweet tooth! Snack on hearty servings of naturally healthy California Grapes today!

They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.

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See leaflets for details.

California Grapes
The Natural Healthy Snack

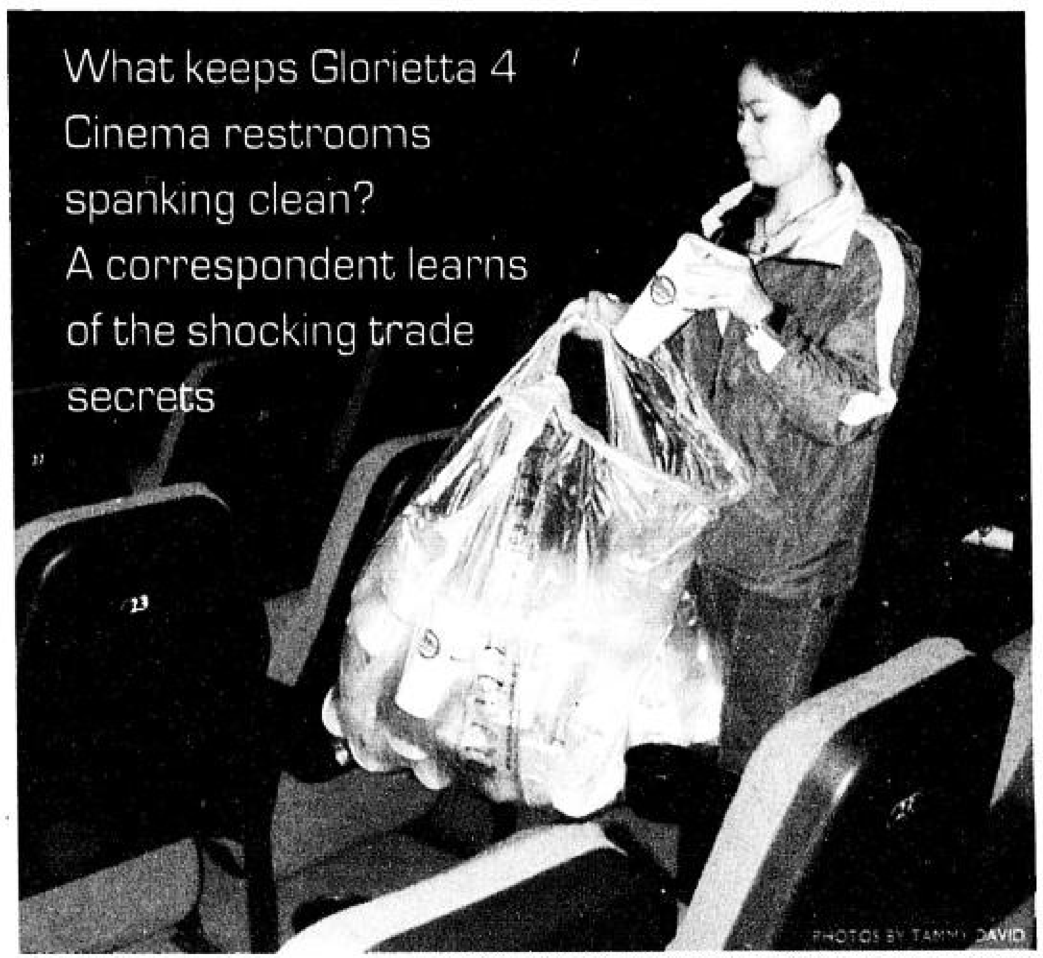
Madam Clean for a day—and not a moment longer

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

I WAS not feeling quite up to the mark on the day I was to become a cinema janitress. Aside from a terrible pre-menstrual syndrome, I had a really terrible "L.Q." in the morning. I had also lost my dearest kismet comb, which had the power to tame my stubborn tresses. And then there was a change of sked...

I arrived at the Glorietta 4 Cinema office together with Mark (he was to try being an usher) almost an hour late. The theater manager didn't exactly scold us, but from his reaction, we would have probably received a ticking-off had we been his true employees. Thank God, Tammy came even later.

At first, what made me enthusiastic about this assignment was the thought of going the rounds of the G4 Cinemas for free. I had also thought that the "incidentals" in the dark would make exciting stories.


What keeps Glorietta 4 Cinema restrooms spanking clean? A correspondent learns of the shocking trade secrets

PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

SPECIAL THANKS TO LAWYER ROLANDO DUENAS AND JERICK GENPESAW

Shock

Unfortunately, it turned out there was hardly any minute to watch a film since I was busy cleaning the restrooms.

The housekeeping supervisor got me introduced to my 21-year-old partner, Eds, who to my rare delight, was shorter than my 4'11". In my first minute with her, I was totally shocked. Either out of duty or just to make a laudatory impression, she taught me at once how to clean the toilet bowl. In a nonchalant manner, she soaked and squeezed her rag into the bowl as if she was just doing the laundry, and then cleaned it through its deepest depths like a plumber. While doing this, she empathically turned to me and asked, "*Nadidiri ka?*" Summoning my courage, I pleaded with her not to make me do the bowl.

Later, however, I realized that the chore paled in comparison with what a more "seasoned" janitress related to me. She said that while cleaning the toilet bowl at one time, the water rose like a fountain, splashing the morning freshness onto her face.

Quite expectedly, the janitorial tasks were a frightful sweat. I did the restrooms time and again. I made sure there were no hair strands on the floors, no smudges in the mirrors, and none of my shoe prints on the floors when I mopped them (the trick is to do it backward). We tidied up the cinemas during intermissions. With a floor mop twice my height, I groped up and down the stairs going to the restrooms.

Cinema food

In vigorous strides, I walked in between rows to pick up the trash and was amused by the crowd's swell choices of cinema food (Seattle's Best, TGIF, Lala Kropek, Humpy Dumpy). I kept my gaze straight to avoid meeting the eyes of familiar faces. I also liked to avoid dirty old-looking men who would make "goo-goo" eyes at me.

It was more difficult to clean the toilets after a stream of people had come in at the end of the film. But the friendly theater managers were curious how I was warming up to my work. I kept hunger, exhaustion and menstrual cramps from showing on my face. I learned that a janitor could only have two breaks in a day for 30 minutes each. I wondered how Eds could skip her break when I was already tired after only three hours.

Good thing that the jovial Eds made things a lot smoother for me. She would call me "Ganda" (which she generously used for everyone, anyway). She would burst into Britney Spears' "Boys" song in falsetto (we were in the theater showing the latest "Austin Powers" movie at the time).

In one hazy moment though, she poured out her heart for not having been able to get a degree. I tried to ease her pain by telling her matter-of-factly that college diplomas aren't always a sure ticket to getting a fine job. "*Diskarte lang 'yan,*" I told her, which lifted her spirits. Eds also recalled her lucky days at work when she would chance on money. "*Pero iyon 'yung may sakit pa ang tatay ko, ngayon hindi na,*" she sadly said. I cut her with another sweet lemon tactic: "*Gusto mo ba may magkasakit sa inyo para makapulot ka uli o* okay *lang na 'di ka makapulot pero wala namang may sakit?*" Her eyes brightened up.

I was not very glad to see the end of my job since Eds and I had really bonded well. Admittedly, though, the sick and fagged-out part of me just wanted to go home. Clearly, the experience has transformed me.

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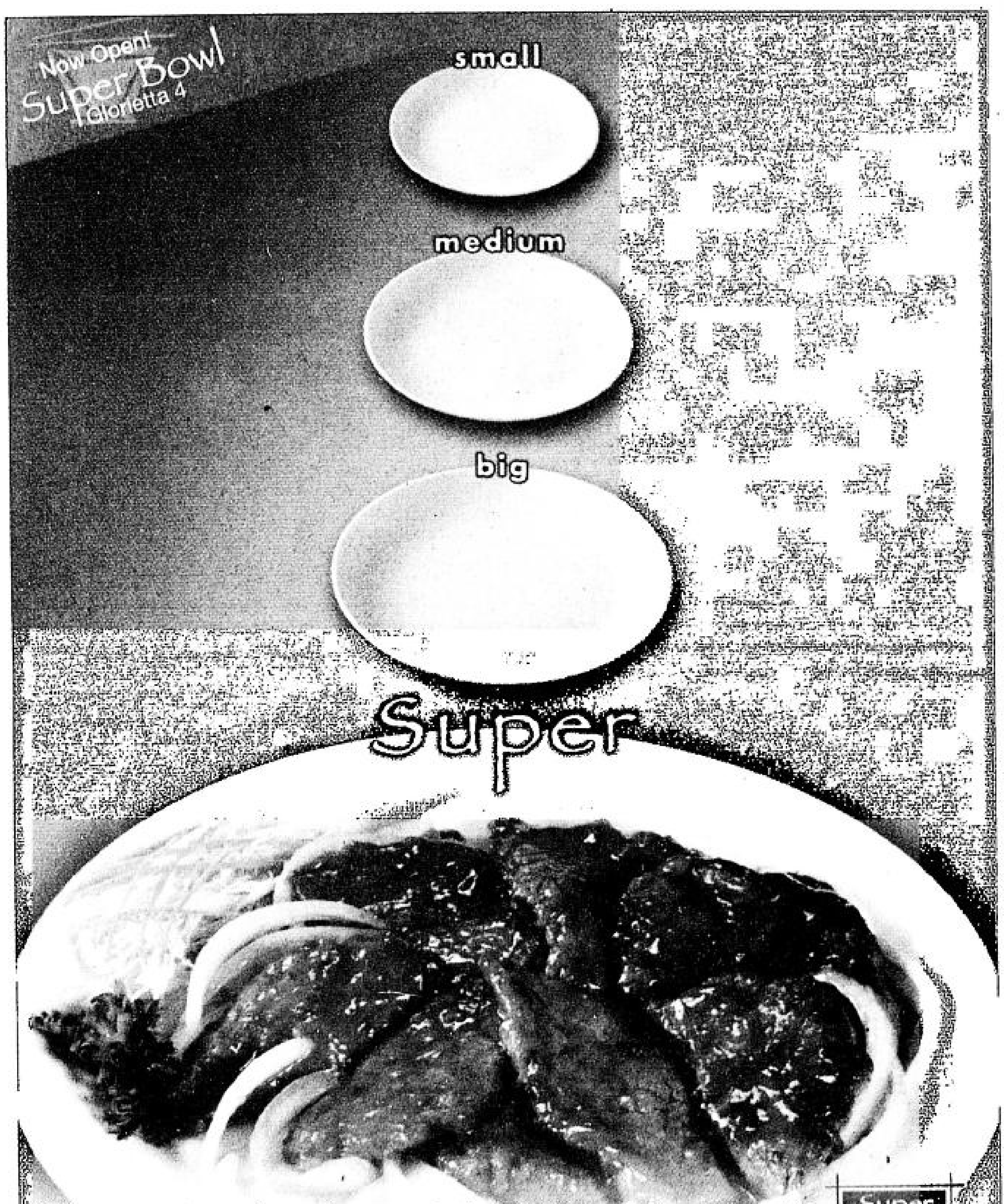
Sept 15, 4:30 pm - SM Sucat
Sept 15, 5:30 pm - SM Southmall
at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA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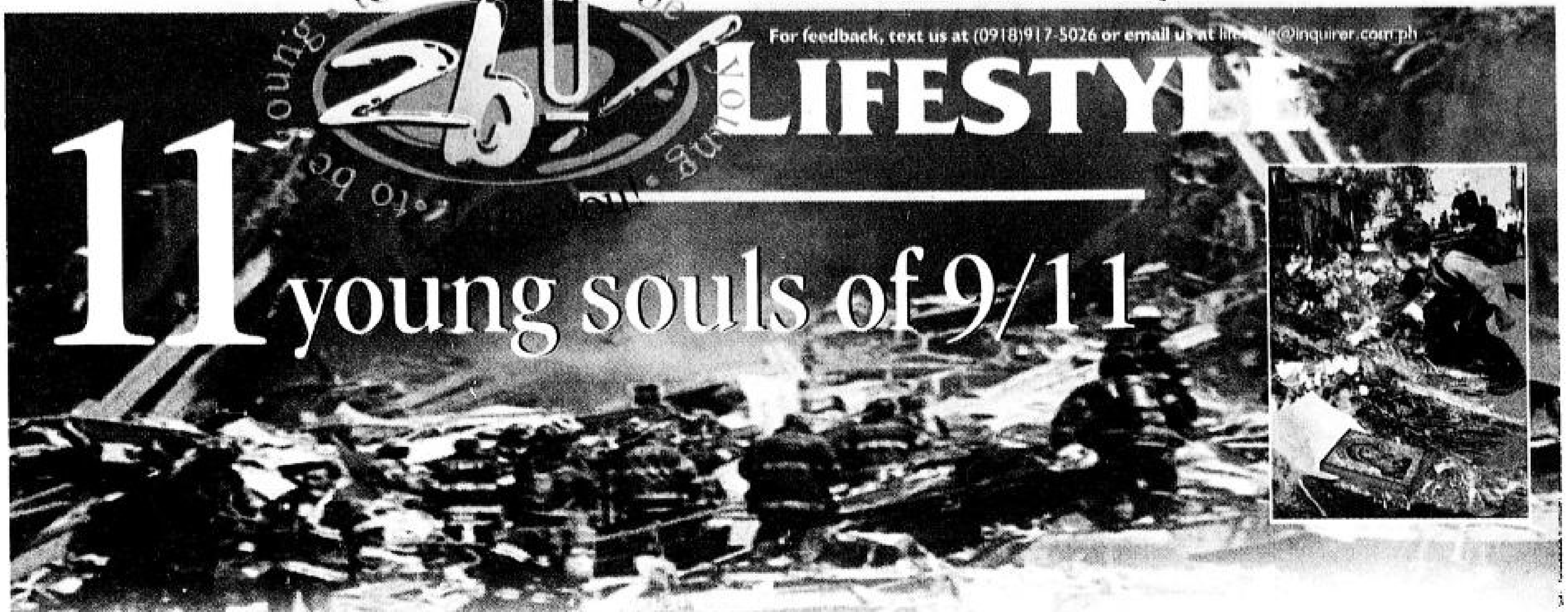

11 young souls of 9/11

By Pam Pastor

JUST like you, they had great dreams. They wanted to become computer experts and financial wizards. They wanted to help others. They wanted to save the world. Just like you, they had different passions. They lived for music, for dancing, for parties, for shopping, for sports. Just like you, they were loved greatly. Parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, boyfriends and girlfriends have countless memories of them, endless stories about how these young people's lives had touched theirs.

Unlike you, their lives were cut short. The dreams were extinguished. Their passions were halted.

Why should you remember them?

Because it is not anymore a matter of race or background. That day, only one thing made a difference. They were there. And you weren't. You still have the rest of your life to look forward to. They don't.

The next time you start to forget, try to think of one simple reality—it could have been any one of us in their place.

Here are 11 heartbreaking stories, 11 faces of tragedy, 11 reasons to embrace life and make the most out of the time you have left in this world—time that their families could only wish they still had.

11 YOUNG/ p.D2

Why should you remember? Because you could have been them

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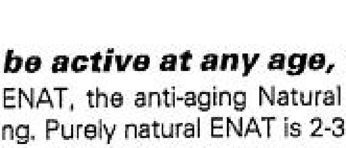
Former President George Bush, 78
went skydiving not too long ago.

Pierce Brosnan, 49
goes scuba diving.

Tom Cruise, 40
flies his own planes.

Sigourney Weaver, 53
is into martial arts.

Geena Davis, 45
has taken up archery.



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LOGO TURTLEHI
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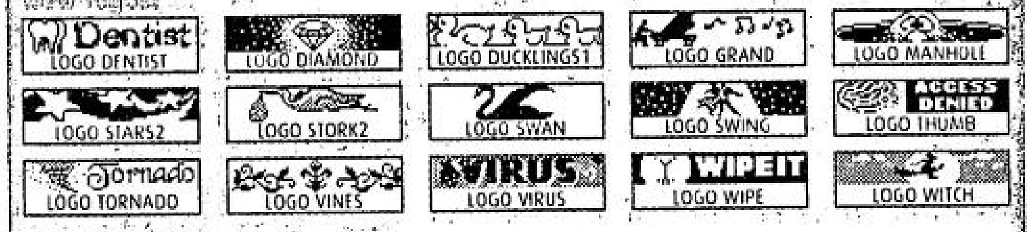

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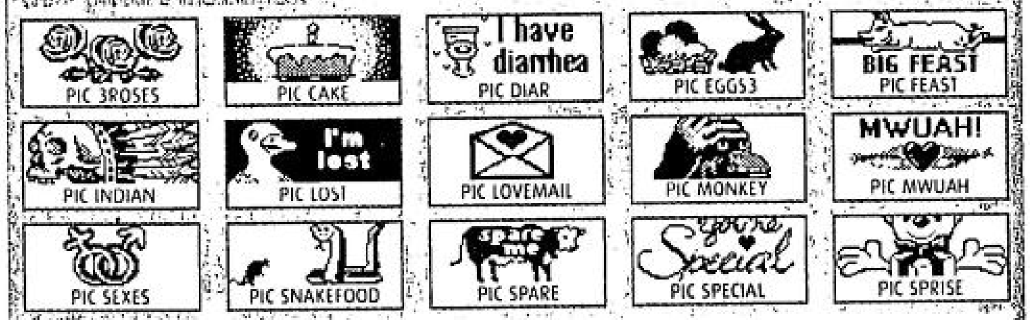

New ring tones:

Bittersweet	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE BITTERSWT
Come Anytime	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE COMEANYTIME
I Want You Back	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE WANTUBACK
Leilani	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE LEILANI
Like Wow-Wipeout	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE LIKEWOW
Miss Freelove '69	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE FREELOVE
My Girl	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE MYGIRL1
The Right Time	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE RIGHTTIME
Tojo	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE TOJO
What's My Scene	Hoodoo Gurus	TONE MYSCENE

Top ten ring tones:

1 Leron Leron Sinta		TONE LERON
2 Pamulinawen		TONE PAMULINA
3 Sweet Emotion (Featured in the movie "Armageddon")	Aerosmith	TONE SWEETEMOT
4 Aint It Fun	Jennifer Lopez	TONE AINTITFUN
5 Hit Me With Your Best Shot	Pat Benatar	TONE HITMEWITH
6 Sometimes A Fantasy	Billy Joel	TONE FANTASY
7 Surfin' Safari	The Beach Boys	TONE SURFINSAF
8 Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
9 Farewell To You My Friends	Raymond Lauchengco	TONE FAREWELL
10 Saranggola Ni Pepe	Celeste Legaspi	TONE SARANGGOLA

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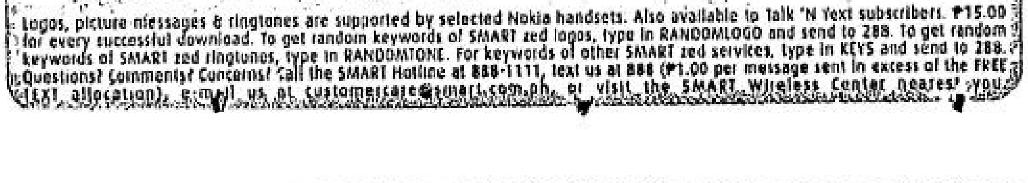
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David DiMeglio
Age: **22**
Residence:
Wakefield, MA
Occupation:
Computer service
Location: **AA Flight 11**

David was close to turning his passion for computers into a career. He had recently graduated from computer school and was just starting a business in computer services. He boarded American Airlines Flight 11 that day to help his mother move.

Deora Frances Bodley
Age: **20**
Residence:
Santa Clara, CA
Occupation: **University student, Santa Clara University**
Location: **UA Flight 93**

Deora was returning from an East Coast visit with friends when she boarded United Airlines flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. She had tutored second graders the previous summer.

Kris Romeo Bishundat
Age: **23**
Residence:
Waldorf, MD
Occupation: **Information systems technician second class, US Navy**
Location: **Pentagon**

Romeo joined the US Navy six years ago, just before he turned 18. The opportunity allowed him to travel around the world twice. He died three days before his 24th birthday.

Nicole Miller
Age: **21**
Residence:
San Jose, CA
Occupation: **Student, West Valley College**
Location: **UA Flight 93**

Nicole was an athlete—she loved swimming, softball, hiking, riding horses and jogging. She was on the dean's list at West Valley College in Saratoga, California, and was finishing up her last eight units at the time of the attacks. You may visit Nicole's memorial website at www.nicolemillermemorial.com.

Roshan R. Singh
Age: **21**
Residence: **New York, NY**
Occupation: **Equipment technician, Windows on the World**
Location: **World Trade Center**

Sean had to be at the WTC early that day because he was arranging an audiovisual presentation for a conference that had been scheduled. He died on with his 25-year-old sister who was an assistant banquet manager for Windows on the World.

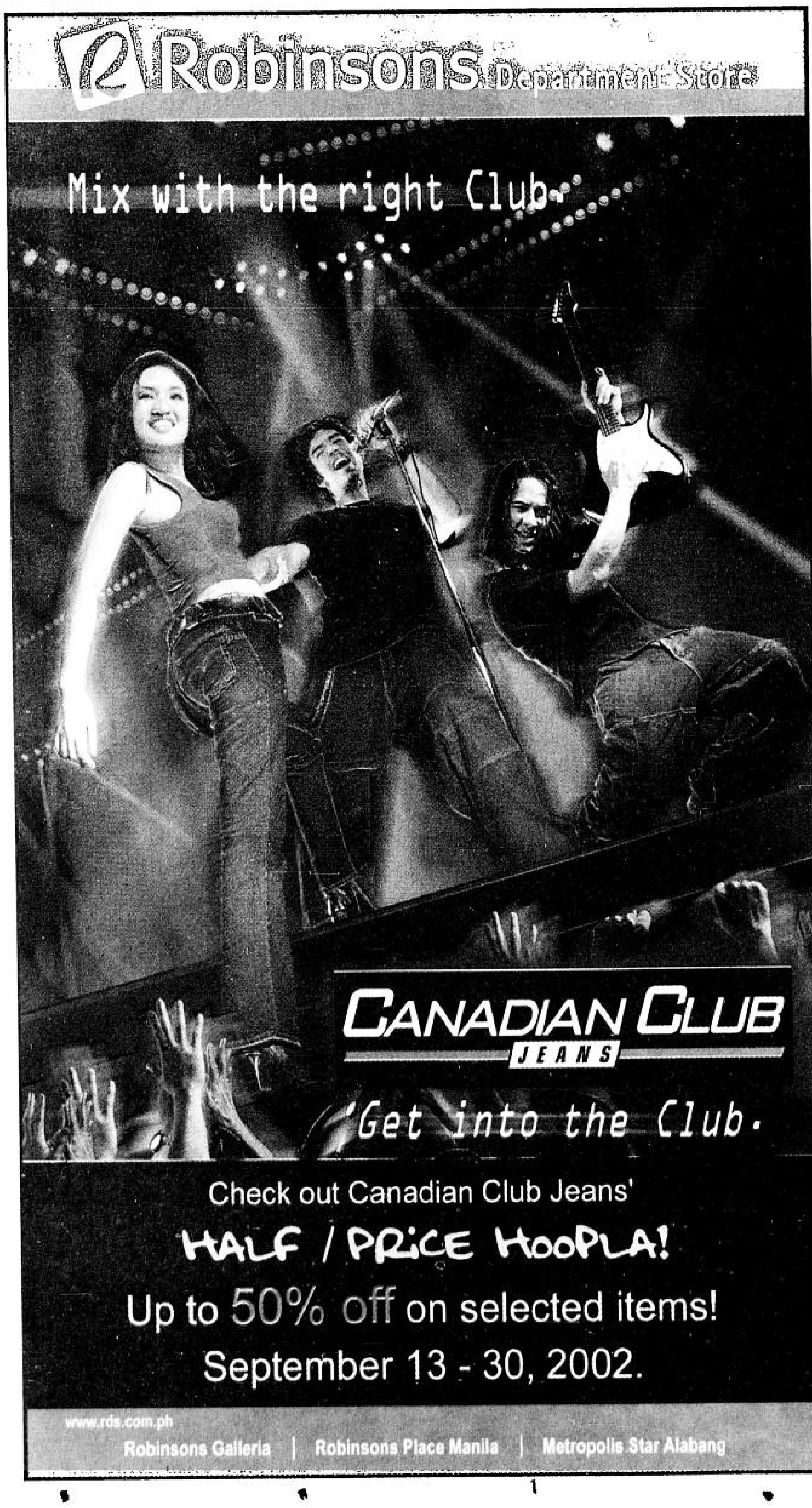
Lisa Frost
Age: **22**
Residence:**Rancho Santa Margarita, CA**
Occupation: **Sales and marketing associate**
Location: **UA Flight 175**

Lisa had been recruited by Boston University. She graduated summa cum laude in May 2001, with two degrees—in communications and in hospitality administration. She had been on the plane on her way back to her home in California where she wanted to start her career.

Ivhan Luis Carpio Bautista
Age: **24**
Residence:
New York, NY
Occupation: **Windows on the World**
Location: **World Trade Center, Tower 1, 107th floor**

Sept. 11 should have been Ivhan's day off from his work at Windows on the World. It was also his birthday. But because he was working to support his extended family in Peru, he agreed when a colleague asked him to cover his shift.

young souls of 9/11



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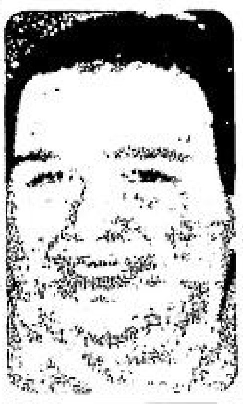
Joshua David Birnbaum
Age: **24**
Residence: **New York, NY**
Occupation:
Assistant bond trader, Cantor Fitzgerald
Location: **World Trade Center**

Exactly two years before the 9/11 attacks, Joshua, then known as DJ Samsson, had spinned for a big rave in Johnson City, Tenn. And even though he later abandoned his DJ-ing days for Wall Street, music remained constantly in his heart. His greatest dream was to put up his own recording studio.

Aisha Harris
Age: **22**
Residence: **New York, NY**
Occupation: **Switch operations technician, General Telecom**
Location: **World Trade Center, Tower 1, 83rd floor**

In high school, Aisha had been a writer for the newspaper and the poetry magazine, played saxophone in the school band, was an honor student and treasurer of the student government. She and her boyfriend, Curtis Noel, who was also working for General Telecom at WTC, had been planning to get married. They both died on Sept. 11.



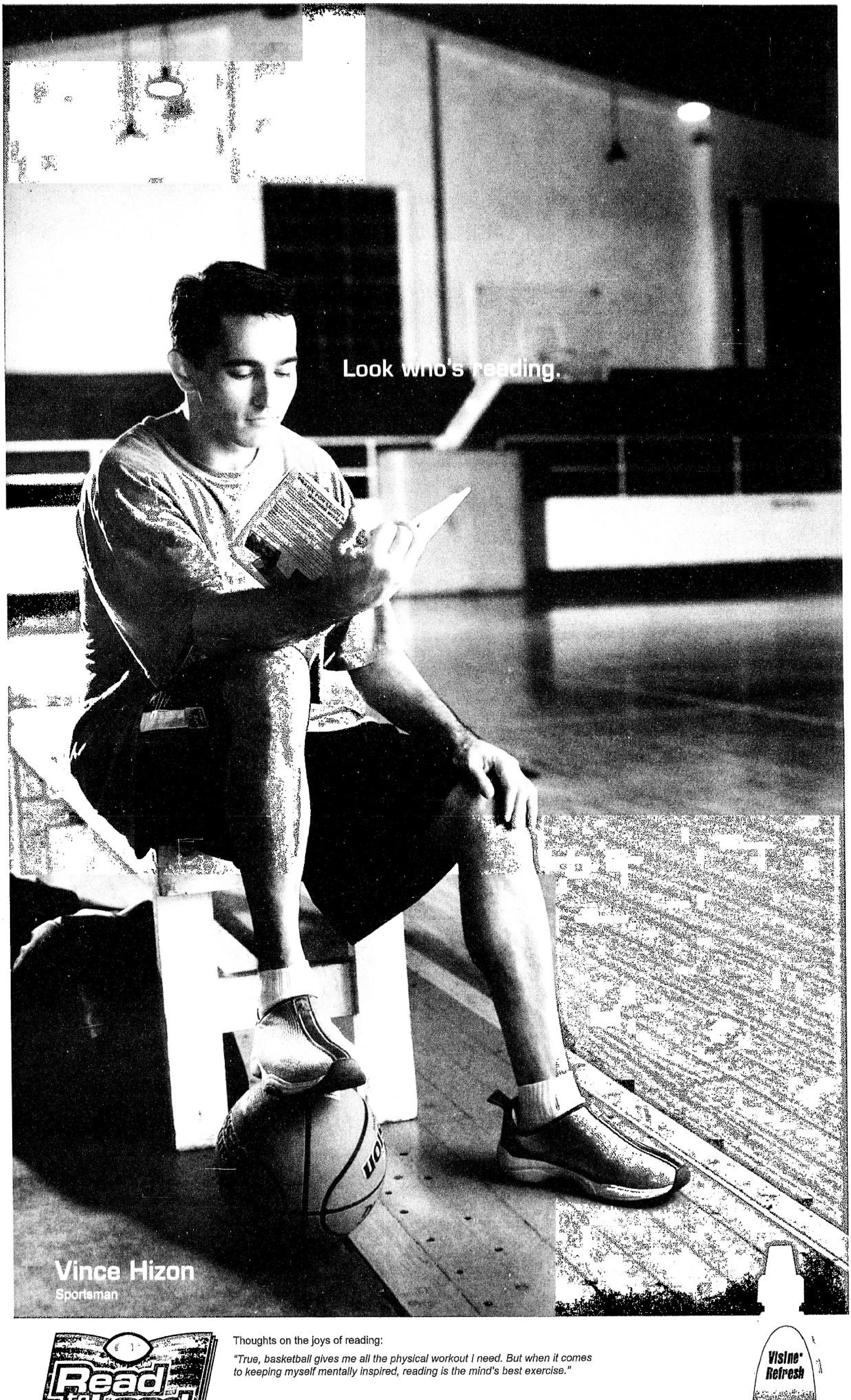
Richard Allen Pearlman
Age: **18**
Residence: **New York, NY**
Occupation:
Volunteer medic, Forest Hills Ambulance Corps
Location: **World Trade Center**

Richard was running an errand nearby when he learned of the WTC attacks. He rushed to the site in the desire to use his training with the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps to help victims. His mother last saw him in a picture that came out in a magazine of him surrounded by other emergency workers at ground zero. He used to tell her that he "wanted to help save the world."

Michael Cammarata
Age: **22**
Residence:
Huguenot, NY
Occupation:
Firefighter, New York Fire Department
Location: **World Trade Center, Tower 1**

A day after Michael died, his brother Joseph went through his things to look for a birth certificate. What he found was a letter that listed what Michael wanted his family to do in case something happened to him. One: "Take care of Jenna (his girlfriend of seven years)." Two: "Don't mourn me. This is the career I chose." Three: "Make my spirit live on." Four: "Remember I love you all and will be waiting for you upstairs."

ALL OF US
TODAY


Look who's reading.
Vince Hizon
Sportsman

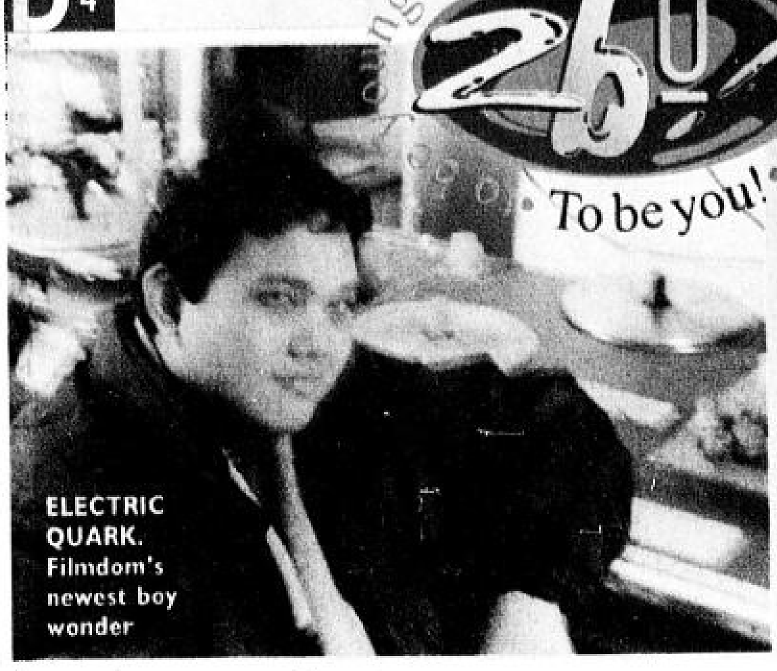
Read to Lead
A Visine Reading Program

Thoughts on the joys of reading:

"True, basketball gives me all the physical workout I need. But when it comes to keeping myself mentally inspired, reading is the mind's best exercise."

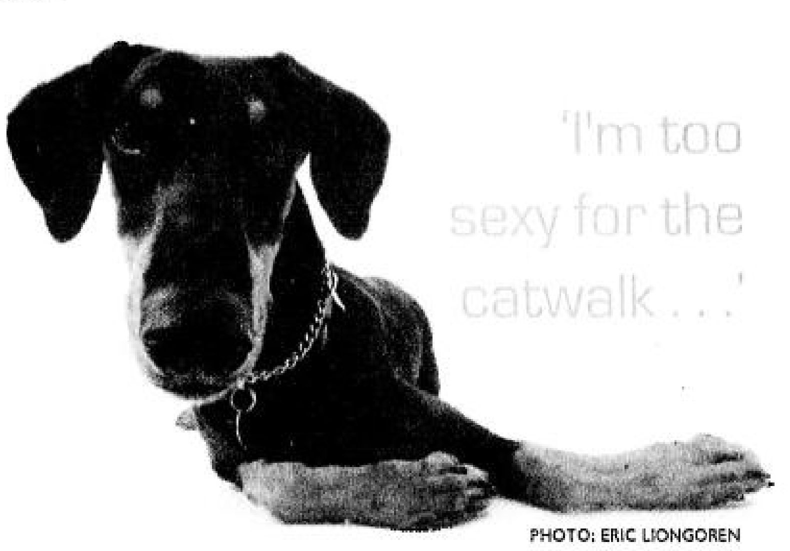
"Read to Lead" is a special ***Visine*** program that promotes the value of reading and the joys and benefits it brings. It also hopes to encourage individuals to read regularly, to keep the mind inspired, stimulated and refreshed. After all, reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained, with benefits far greater than many present-day choices available to everyone.

Visine
Refresh
Eye Drops
10 mL



ELECTRIC QUARK. Filmdom's newest boy wonder

ROCK ON. Pep's Tricia Avecilla, Red Horse's Ana Lisbona, Kathy Alejar, Jedi Isidro and Rod Nepomuceno of MTV at Hard Rock



'I'm too sexy for the catwalk . . .'

PHOTO: ERIC LIONGOREN

Quark Henares' turn to rock

Tim Yap

MUCH has been said about the brilliance of filmdom's latest maverick, 21-year-old director **Quark Henares**. While **Rex Navarrete** was making the yuppies laugh their hearts out, Quark was busy boggling the minds and shocking the senses of film enthusiasts and the mass audience through his much talked about film on youth, virginity and crime of passion, "Gamitan."

What seems at first to be a cute tale of high school crushes and sexual awakening evolves into a dark tale of "Cruel Intention-ed" youngblood out for revenge. The film takes you on a twisted tale where phallic symbols, neurotic nuances and innuendoes abound. Established film critics hail Quark's work as "the best debut since **Mike de Leon**." His work has also been the subject of debate from artists' hangouts to Net chat rooms. That, aside from the authenticity of **Maui Taylor**'s abundant chest.

What people do not know is that Quark actually has been dreaming of directing his own film since he was 12. He started directing short films while he was in college, with an impressive portfolio consisting of "Saging at Rambutan," "Magis" and "A Date with Jao Mapa," which won acclaim by bagging the first prize at the Palanca Awards for teleplay. This feat he achieved at the ripe old age of 20.

In between films, he would direct music videos for rock bands like Ciudad, Monsterbot and the Pinup Girls. He also took up film courses in New York, where he directed Big Apple-based actress **Giselle Töngi** in the film "Child Star." Some weeks ago, a screening was held of Quark's edgy work, along with his good friend **Chris Costello**, for Brash Young Cinema. Whew! Not bad at all for the carefree-looking guy who used to frequent the INQUIRER 2bU! headquarters and hang out till after dinner.

DARK AND SEXY LOVE STORY. The director with Maui Taylor and Wendell Ramos

HARD ROCKERS. Models Erie Matic and Sol Glass as Lenny Kravitz.

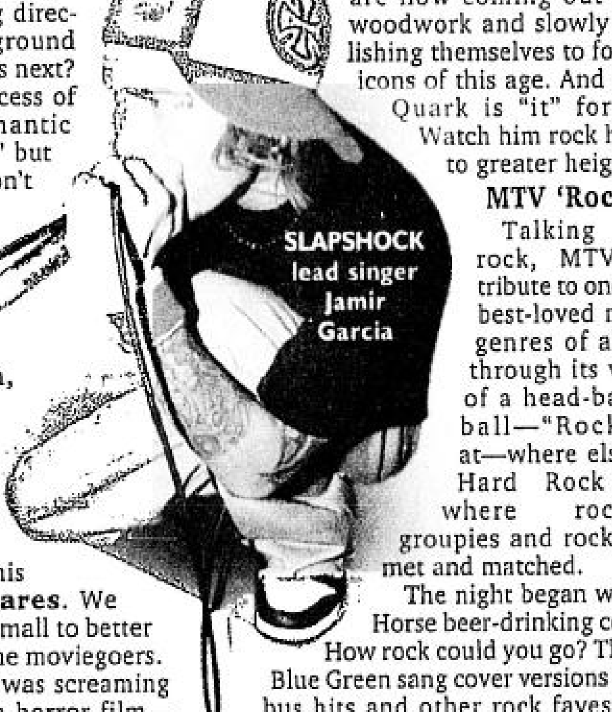
'Zuma' remake

Now with a three-picture contract with Viva films, Quark is all of a sudden in a quandary for a follow-up to "Gamitan"—both an artistic and a commercial hit—a rare feat for young directors with an underground upbringing. So what's next? "I'm now in the process of writing a dark romantic comedy titled 'Keka,' but I'm pretty sure it won't get picked up," he says with a self-deprecating demeanor. Asked about his dream project, he said, without batting an eyelash, "The remake of 'Zuma'." Yup, the original Jake-the-Snake-meets-Incredible-Hulk character.

Your columnist was lucky enough to watch the film with Quark himself and his dad, rock icon **Atom Henares**. We chose to watch it at SM Megamall to better experience the reactions of the moviegoers. Through it all, the audience was screaming (never mind that it wasn't a horror film—well, close) and laughing (lots of Pinoy pop culture puns)—Quark was pushing their buttons in different ways, and he was able to do it successfully.

The sex scenes, though not bad at all, could use some improvement. More passion in some scenes (the climactic sex scene, where the male lead, after delayed teasing, finally gets to taste Taylor, lacks passion on the guy's side) and less in some other (like the "devirginization" scene where, instead of being scared, the lead actress acts like a pro in bed). The tight editing, funky dialogue, effortless acting from some of the actors (**Wendell Ramos** most especially) and the cameos (Quark himself appears in one of the scenes, as do his mom, Dr. **Vicki Belo**, and 2bU!'s **Tammy** and **Happy David**, among others), camerawork and storytelling are more than enough to make the film a hit.

Now before you think Yaparazzi has turned into a film column, think again. I just happen to applaud efforts from the young generation to define itself. From artists in film, fashion, art and other fields, the young players are now coming out of the woodwork and slowly establishing themselves to form the icons of this age. And I think Quark is "it" for ours. Watch him rock his way to greater heights.



SLAPSHOCK lead singer Jamir Garcia

MTV 'RockD!'

Talking about rock, MTV paid tribute to one of the best-loved musical genres of all time through its version of a head-banger's ball—"RockD!"—at—where else—the Hard Rock Café, where rock-hard groupies and rock chicks met and matched.

The night began with Red Horse beer-drinking contests. How rock could you go? The band Blue Green sang cover versions of Incubus hits and other rock faves. Later, Slapshock reigned onstage while the rock-loving crowd went wild, led by MTV VJ and rocker chick **Sarah Meier**, who also hosts the new show on the music channel.

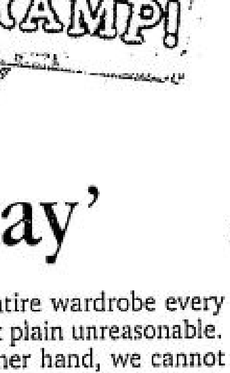
Cal Carrie's model and Lenny Kravitz lookalike **Sol Glass** won the Best in Costume award. Funny thing is, with his natural afro and dark looks, he didn't need any costume at all!

This Saturday, MTV goes the Brit pop route, again at Hard Rock Café, as it launches "The Osbournes!"—the most well-loved reality TV about a funny dysfunctional family. Now can't we all relate to that?

ROCK CHICKS. Anne Matoto, Sigrid Villamil and MTV "RockD!" host Sarah Meier

VJ Sarah rocks!

MARK Saturday, Sept. 14, on your calendars this week: It's all about music, fashion and being a do-gooder at "2bU! Rocks the Ramp," a fashion show-concert for the benefit of the Philippine Animal Rehabilitation Center. Head to the Rockwell Power Plant Plaza parking lot (beside the bridge above Play UnderGround) at 9 p.m. to groove to the sounds of Mojofly, Murder of Crows, itchyworms and Rivermaya, as musicians from Fatal Posporos, Moonstar88, Session Road, Imago, Daydream Cycle, Rivermaya, Monsterbot and the Pin-Up Girls take to the ramp in the latest threads by Sari-Sari and Hip. Admission to this rockin' event is free, but with a donation of P80, get a chance to win an all-expenses paid date with Rivermaya, Michi Valeriano and the RX DJs. There's limited grub to the first 200 people, so don't miss out on this event! The first 100 guests will get a free beanie baby, courtesy of Blue Fur.


ROCKS THE RAMP!

Effectively 'kikay'

From page D8

and memory for new shopping haunts and locations for whatever you may need to feed your closet, dresser, heck, even your medicine cabinet! And to all the *kuripot* ones out there, don't stop reading just yet because, most of the time, the best *kikay* fix isn't necessarily the most expensive. Trust me, *kikay* and *kuripot* can harmoniously coexist in a girl's system.

Now, we all have the tendency to go crazy over new trends and beauty "breakthroughs," don't we? I should know. I had my "product whore" phase when I'd take whatever new item I could get my hands on, and believe me, it wasn't pretty. Ending up with a nasty allergic reaction here, a bald spot there (don't ask!), not to mention an empty wallet, I now know it's a *kikay* sin to get carried away with the avalanche of products that greet us in stores. The smart *kikay* does not fill her vanity kit with just the newest finds; rather, she keeps tried-and-tested items that won't look garish season after season.

Bottom line? It's acceptable to road test what seems to be a promising product or to purchase a currently trendy accessory from time to time, but to change your beauty regimen every time a new shipment of cleansers, toners and moisturizers comes in or to overhaul your entire wardrobe every season is just plain unreasonable.

On the other hand, we cannot stick to a particular *kikay* formula forever. Blame it on discontinued beauty products, the arrival of new fashion collections, or simply our fickle nature, but even we effective *kikays* have to keep up.

Quite the contrary to what I mentioned earlier, this brings me to another *kikay* lesson: The key is to strike a balance between the items that already work for you and the new ones you can use to update your whole look. By "update," I do not mean a 360-degree image makeover. Something as uncomplicated as a new hairstyle or accessory can make a world of difference to an old look, but we'll get to that later on.

The last *kikay* lesson I will share today is probably the most important. The essential element of being effectively *kikay* cannot be bought from stores nor read in fashion and beauty magazines. To be *kikay* is not to be defined by the clothes you wear or the makeup you put on your face. It is having that personal flair that packs the extra punch in any outfit. It cannot be taught, not by any beauty guru and, certainly, not by me. It is knowing when the allure of lipstick ends and when your own natural magic begins.

'Raketeros'–a different kind of working students

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent

YOU want to start a business while still in college and have these seemingly crazy ideas that may not be so nutty after all. Then, you're a promising *raketero* or *raketera*—an enterprising young person that the 1st Student Entrepreneur's Fair put on center stage Aug. 23-24 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

The fair was participated in by 38 student entrepreneurs from 25 colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. Revolving around the theme, "Ano Ba ang Raket Mo?," the fair was organized by Thames International Business School, which honored young business-minded people particularly the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES).

Job makers

Thames, under the leadership of president and CEO Vivienne Tan and director Jose Noel "Joel" Santos, wants young Filipinos to think beyond being mere job seekers after graduation.

"It's all about inspired students inspiring others and challenging them to be job makers instead of job seekers," Tan explained the rationalé for the event.

Santos recalled that people were hardly encouraging when they were planning the event. "Nobody believed the project will work," he said. But the two went ahead anyway despite resource and time constraints.

Short preparation

Although Thames had only two months to plan, manage and put together the event, the student entrepreneurs proved themselves worthy of the effort. Members of the Young Entrepreneur's Organization (YEO) chapter in the Philippines screened about 100 applicants. Exhibitors are selected for originality of their business concept, management excellence, and the performance of their businesses. A shortlist of 38 businesses involving products like organic soaps, ladies shoes, nameplates, beaded accessories and gold bars was drawn up.

Of course, highlight of the fair was the awarding of the TIES to 11 student entrepreneurs. The winners were chosen by a board of judges that consisted of Francis Lumen, CEO of MTV Philippines; Tina Tan, general manager of Suy-Sing; Rufi Tiam-Lee, senior vice president of Monde Nissin; Lisa Gokongwei, president of Summit Publishing; Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, Hans Sy of SM and retired Gen. Mariano Mison. Chair of the board was the PDI chair Marixi Prieto. ***(See chart below for TIES awardees)***

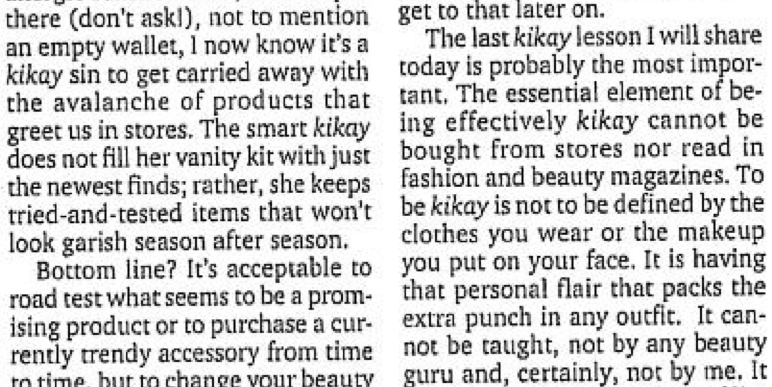
Though most of the awardees were management or business students, their field of study was not really what got them started in business.

The winners shared a natural interest in business and determination. The young entrepreneurs launched their businesses using only their personal savings.

Bethel Vosotros and her "coffee-wine" partners were encouraged to launch their innovative product after winning overall in the Coffee Festival in their school. Capital for the business came from her personal savings.

Like any new businessman, Ridgenn Ong had a challenging time setting up his enterprise. It was a bold and risky decision to go into the manufacture of ladies' leather shoes when sandals from countries like China were taking over the market. It was also difficult to juggle business and schoolwork.

Santos advises would-be entrepreneurs: "Start and look for a mentor, somebody who can help you." Tan adds, "It's all about courage and persistence. Don't be afraid to start. Failure is a necessity to success. Learn to overcome failure."



PDI chair Marixi Prieto makes the rounds at the fair.

Mary Catherine Lopez	College of the Holy Spirit	Expo Enterprise	D'Husky Lamp
Bernadette Villena Rodriguez	La Consolacion College	Nitz Bubbles	Plate scrubber
Angelo Ray Obrero	Thames	Obrero Farms & Gardens	Ornamental pineapples
Fritzefer Tan Lee	College of the Holy Spirit	Spell ME Enterprise	Nameplates
Joanne Margaret Ong	DLSU	Spool Works Inc.	Wallets
Ingrid Abigail Ongpauco	AdMU	Peas & Pics	Beaded accessories
Basilissa Trinidad N. Antonio	Assumption College	Passion in a Box	Character cakes
Bethel Vosotros	FEU	Coffee Wine Company	Coffee-wine beverage
Hagem Cabrera Furigay	UA&P	Gem's Gold Melting & Trading	24-k gold bars
Ira C. Briones	Thames	CDI Botanical Trading	Organic soaps
Ridgenn Ong	Miriam College	Fascino Casual Leather Goods	Ladies' leather shoes

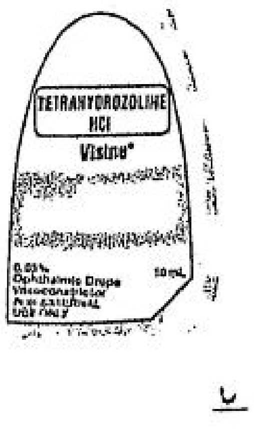
Look who's reading
Lexi Schulze
Writer

Read to Lead
A Visine Reading Program

Thoughts on the joys of reading:

"Reading is perhaps the most effortless and affordable way to be entertained or gain knowledge. You don't need a special place or equipment--just good reading materials!"

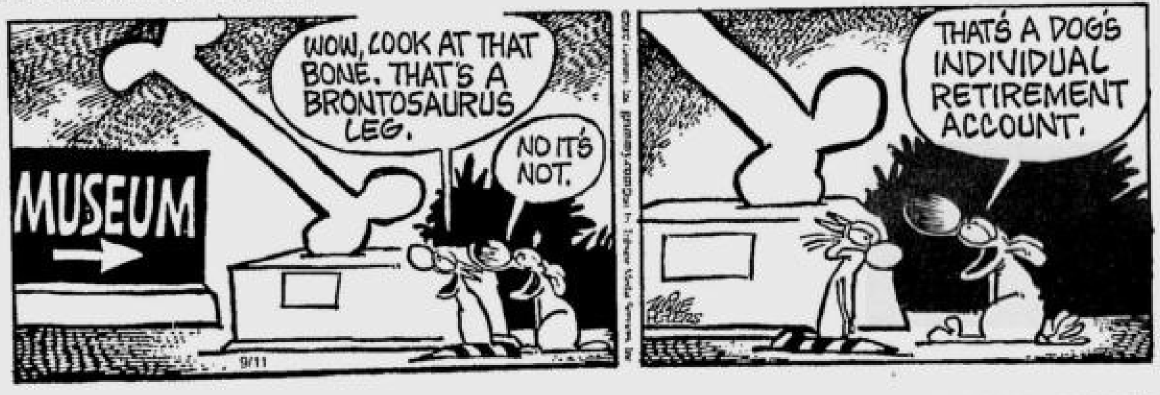
"Read to Lead" is a special ***Visine*** program that promotes the value of reading and the joys and benefits it brings. It also hopes to encourage individuals to read regularly, to keep the mind inspired, stimulated and refreshed. After all, reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained, with benefits far greater than many present-day choices available to everyone.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

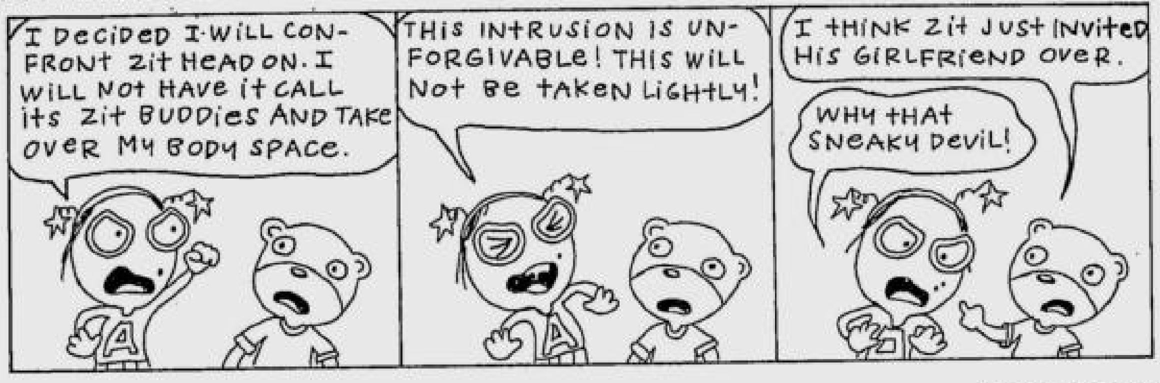
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MUSEUM
WOW, LOOK AT THAT BONE. THAT'S A BRONTOSAURUS LEG.
NO IT'S NOT.
THAT'S A DOG'S INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT.
9/11

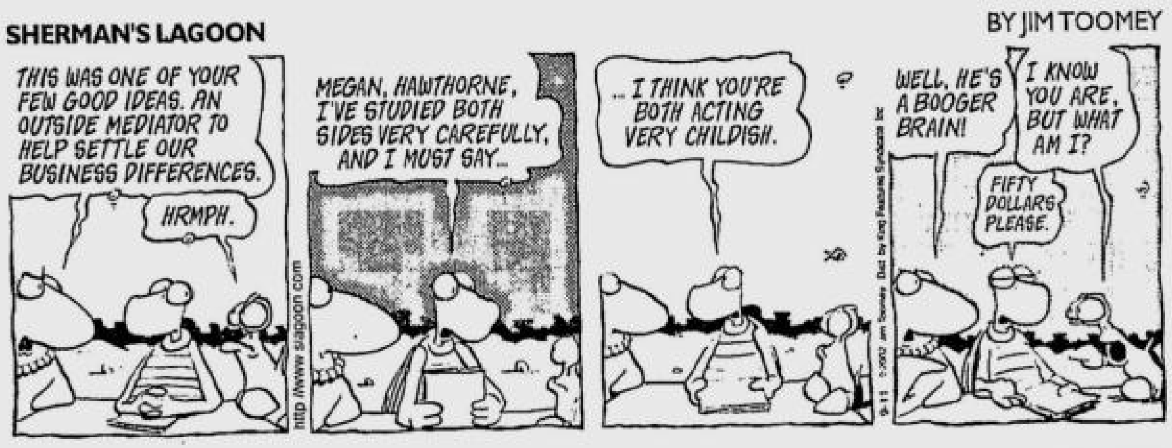
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I DECIDED I WILL CONFRONT ZIT HEAD ON. I WILL NOT HAVE IT CALL ITS ZIT BUDDIES AND TAKE OVER MY BODY SPACE.
THIS INTRUSION IS UNFORGIVABLE! THIS WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!
I THINK ZIT JUST INVITED HIS GIRLFRIEND OVER.
WHY THAT SNEAKY DEVIL!

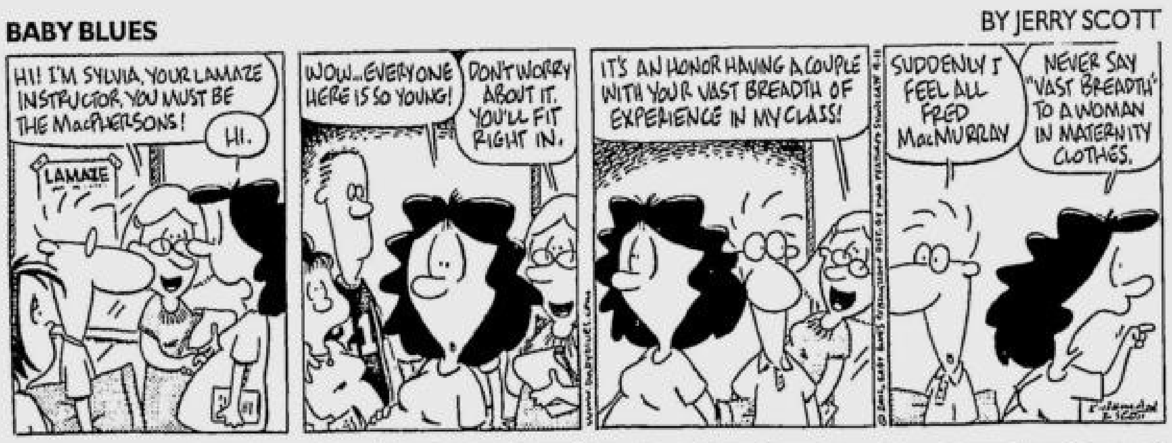
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS WAS ONE OF YOUR FEW GOOD IDEAS. AN OUTSIDE MEDIATOR TO HELP SETTLE OUR BUSINESS DIFFERENCES.
HRMPH.
http://www.slagoon.com
MEGAN, HAWTHORNE, I'VE STUDIED BOTH SIDES VERY CAREFULLY, AND I MUST SAY...
... I THINK YOU'RE BOTH ACTING VERY CHILDISH.
WELL, HE'S A BOOGER BRAIN!
I KNOW YOU ARE, BUT WHAT AM I?
FIFTY DOLLARS PLEASE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI! I'M SYLVIA, YOUR LAMAZE INSTRUCTOR. YOU MUST BE THE MacPHERSONS!
HI.
LAMAZE
WOW... EVERYONE HERE IS SO YOUNG!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'LL FIT RIGHT IN.
IT'S AN HONOR HAVING A COUPLE WITH YOUR VAST BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE IN MY CLASS!
SUDDENLY I FEEL ALL FRED MacMURRAY
NEVER SAY "VAST BREADTH" TO A WOMAN IN MATERNITY CLOTHES.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian De Palma, Harry Connick Jr., Moby, Kristy McNichol

Happy Birthday: Put your heart and soul into everything you do this year and it will turn into not only a romantic year, but also one of great satisfaction both creatively and professionally. Honesty and integrity will play a major role in how well you do. Your numbers are 3, 17, 22, 34, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This will not be the day to take a chance with money. You may find that other people will cost you if you aren't careful. Responsibility for older relatives will cause frustration.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't spill your secrets to someone who may not be trustworthy. Emotional ups and downs will lead to distancing yourself from someone you thought was your friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's up to you to decide what is and what isn't important to you. Spending time with children will help put your life back in perspective.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may not recognize that someone is interested in you. Be receptive to those individuals who are asking you about your life. Someone who interests you may exaggerate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't expect loved ones to be on your side today. It may be time for you to take a look at your options and your future regarding your friends and partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and join groups that interest you. You will meet new friends and build up your confidence. Short trips and communication will satisfy you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work on home improvement projects. Do the labor yourself and avoid asking for help. If someone offers you a hand, you can be sure that they will want something in return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Whatever can go wrong probably will, and if you let yourself become flustered, you will only make matters worse. Patience will pay off especially when dealing with a partner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do not tell relatives or close friends about your private life or they will judge you harshly. If you haven't been honest with yourself or others, you can expect a revelation today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let money issues come between friends. If you spend time with an organization that helps those less fortunate, you will feel good about yourself, and you'll meet people who are generous and responsible.

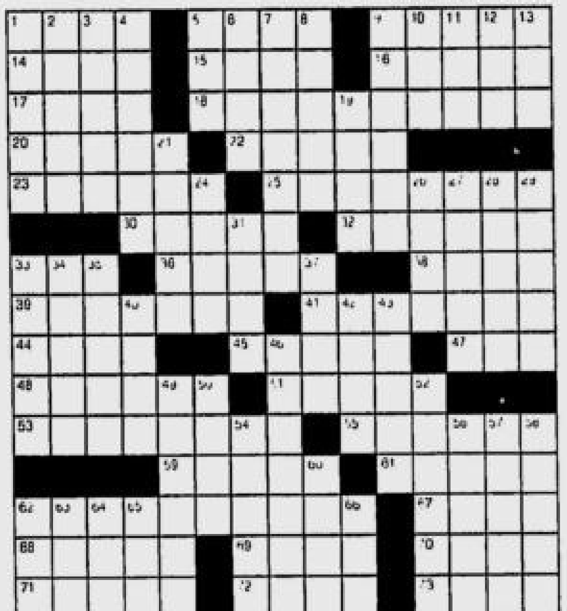
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Voicing your opinion before you have all the facts could lead to problems with the people you work with. An older person in your family may not want to do what's best for himself. You may need to be forceful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in activities that satisfy you. You need to do things that are creative and unusual. This is a great day to get out and meet someone special.

Birthday Baby: Your high energy and determination will lead you in directions that many would be afraid to take. You are brave, relentless and excellent when it comes to finding solutions.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/11/02

ACROSS
1 Declare as true
5 Machu Picchu resident
9 Persian rulers
14 Japanese soup
15 Writer Bellow
16 Dutch flower
17 Martial __
18 Start of Ashleigh Brilliant quote
20 Impassive
22 Play for time
23 Part 2 of quote
25 Alone
30 Holds sway
32 __ Sue Martin
33 Friend in France
36 Former D.C. hostess Perle
38 Actress Moran
39 Part 3 of quote
41 Part 4 of quote
44 Waikiki dance
45 Yellow-fever mosquito
47 Sault __ Marie, MI
48 Turns inside out
51 Book div.
53 Plunders
55 Part 5 of quote
59 Attribute
61 Talk and talk
62 End of quote
67 Lhasa __
68 Blazing
69 Unit of loudness
70 Singing Diamond
71 Skin cream
72 Writer Bagnold
73 Writer Quindlen

DOWN
1 Gather together
2 Taste for objets d'art
3 Bar legally
4 More promising
5 Ending for a belief
6 Those opposed
7 Follower of a charismatic leader
8 Otherwise called
9 Stanley Kowalski's cry
10 What say?
11 King or carte lead-in
12 Towel word
13 Health resort
19 Failure
21 Bread fragment
24 Cordon __ (master chef)
26 Prayer closer
27 Gull-like birds
28 George who was Mary
29 "Divine Comedy" poet
31 Como __ Usted?
33 Was sore
34 Purple hue
35 Wight and Anglesey
37 Verdi heroine
40 Canvas cover, briefly
42 Bennett of Random House
43 Up and about
46 Greek letter
49 Not this, informally
50 Noble address
52 Tennessee's lizard?
54 Expire
56 Loose cattle
57 Pine sap product
58 "__ Gay"
60 Singer Tennille
62 Trigger treat
63 ET's vehicle
64 Malleable metal
65 Three in Italy
66 Sen. Kennedy

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	L	I	N	G	■	H	A	D	J	■	O	D	D	S
L	I	N	U	S	■	E	R	N	E	■	B	E	A	U
A	L	A	B	A	M	A	C	A	W	■	E	P	I	C
W	A	D	I	■	A	D	S	■	S	P	L	A	S	H
■	■	M	A	M	A	■	■	C	H	A	I	R	■	■
A	L	I	■	I	M	M	O	R	A	L	■	T	A	M
D	O	S	E	D	■	A	V	E	R	■	A	M	M	O
M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I	G	E	O	N
I	R	I	S	■	T	O	N	E	■	D	O	N	U	T
N	E	B	■	H	O	N	E	S	T	Y	■	T	R	Y
■	■	I	M	A	M	S	■	■	E	L	L	S	■	■
B	E	L	U	G	A	■	L	H	A	■	A	T	O	M
E	D	I	T	■	C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O	V	E
A	N	T	E	■	H	I	L	O	■	S	E	R	A	L
D	A	Y	S	■	S	L	A	M	■	K	N	E	L	T

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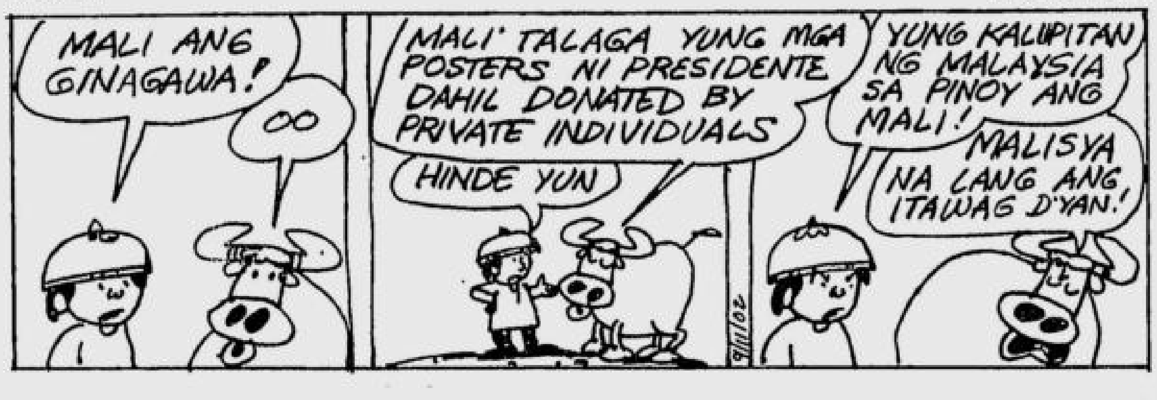
9/11/02

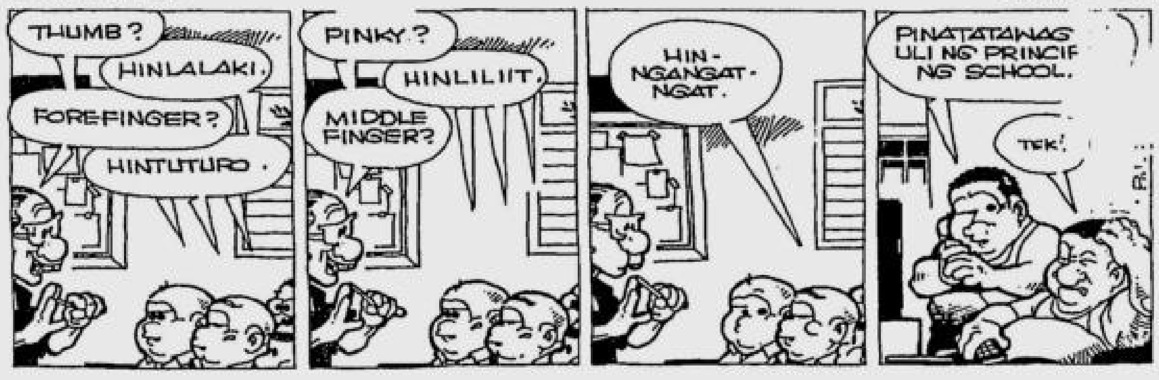
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALI ANG GINAGAWA!
OO
MALI' TALAGA YUNG MGA POSTERS NI PRESIDENTE DAHIL DONATED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
HINDE YUN
9/11/02
YUNG KALUPITAN NG MALAYSIA SA PINOY ANG MALI!
MALISYA NA LANG ANG ITAWAG D'YAN!

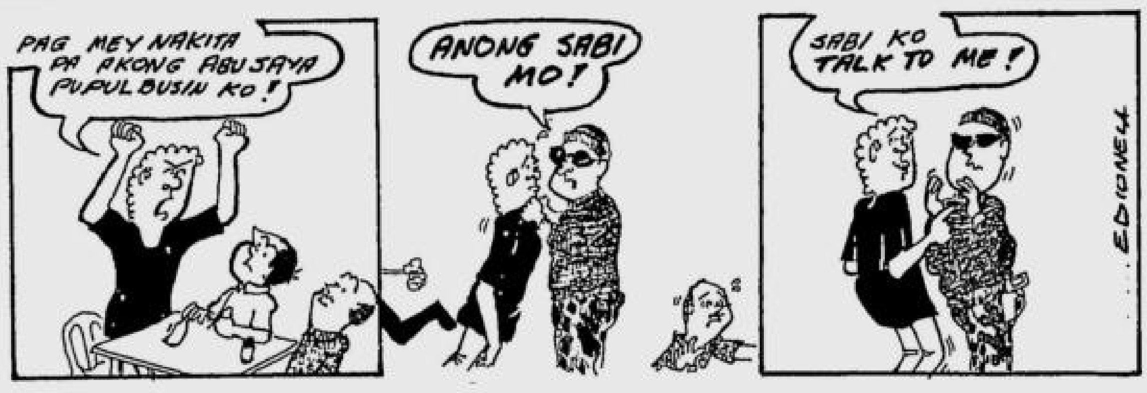
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


THUMB?
HINLALAKI.
FOREFINGER?
HINTUTURO.
PINKY?
HINLILIIT.
MIDDLE FINGER?
HIN-NGANGAT-NGAT.
PINATATAWAG ULI NG PRINCIP NG SCHOOL.
TEK!

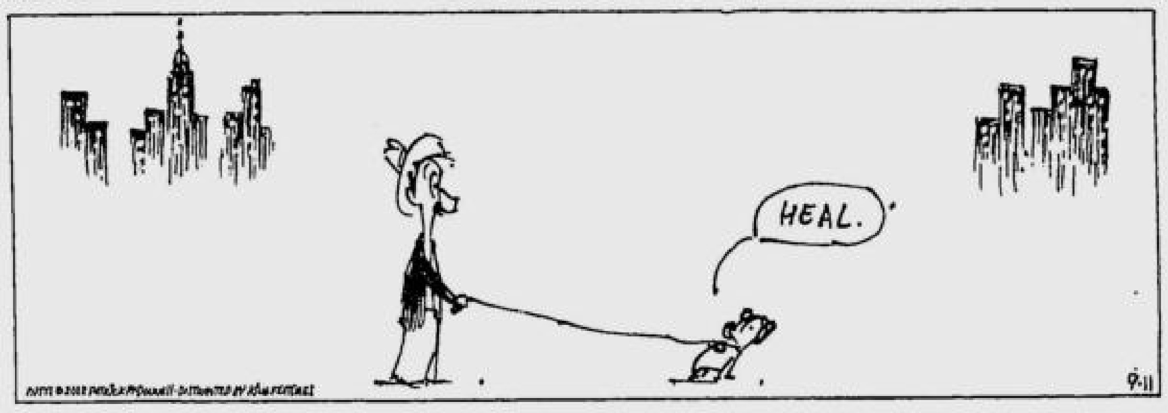
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAG MEY NAKITA PA AKONG ABU SAYA PUPULBUSIN KO!
ANONG SABI MO!
SABI KO TALK TO ME!
EDIONELA

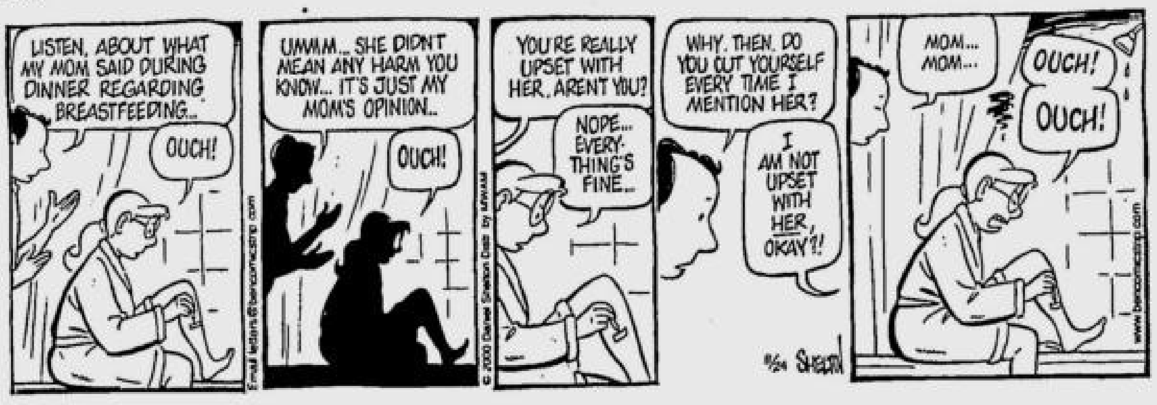
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



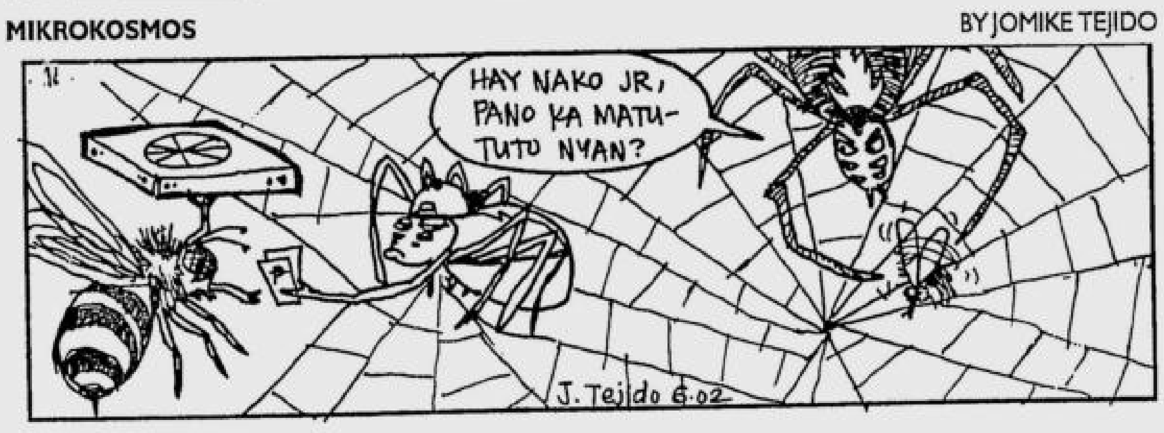
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LISTEN, ABOUT WHAT MY MOM SAID DURING DINNER REGARDING BREASTFEEDING...
OUCH!
UMMM... SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM YOU KNOW... IT'S JUST MY MOM'S OPINION...
OUCH!
YOU'RE REALLY UPSET WITH HER, AREN'T YOU?
NOPE... EVERYTHING'S FINE...
WHY, THEN, DO YOU CUT YOURSELF EVERY TIME I MENTION HER?
I AM NOT UPSET WITH HER, OKAY?!
MOM... MOM...
OUCH!
OUCH!
www.bencomicstrip.com

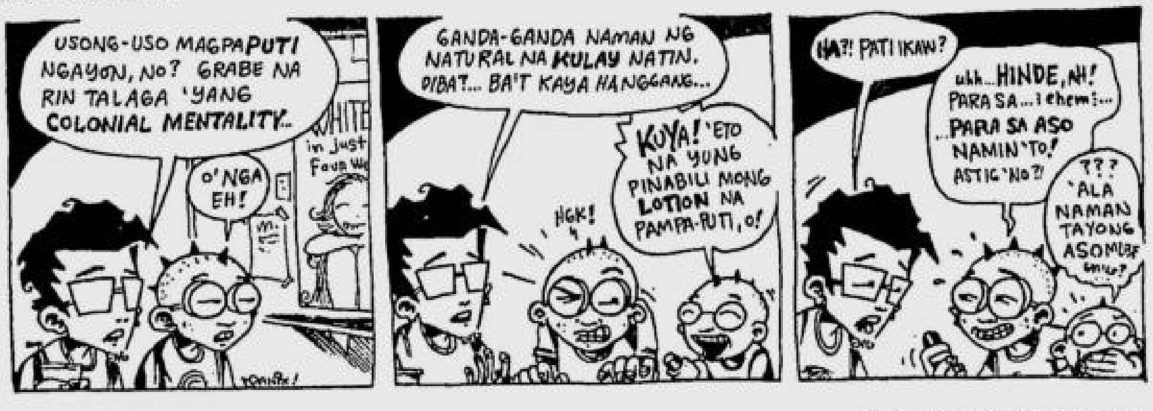
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY NAKO JR, PANO KA MATUTUTO NYAN?
J. Tejido 6.02

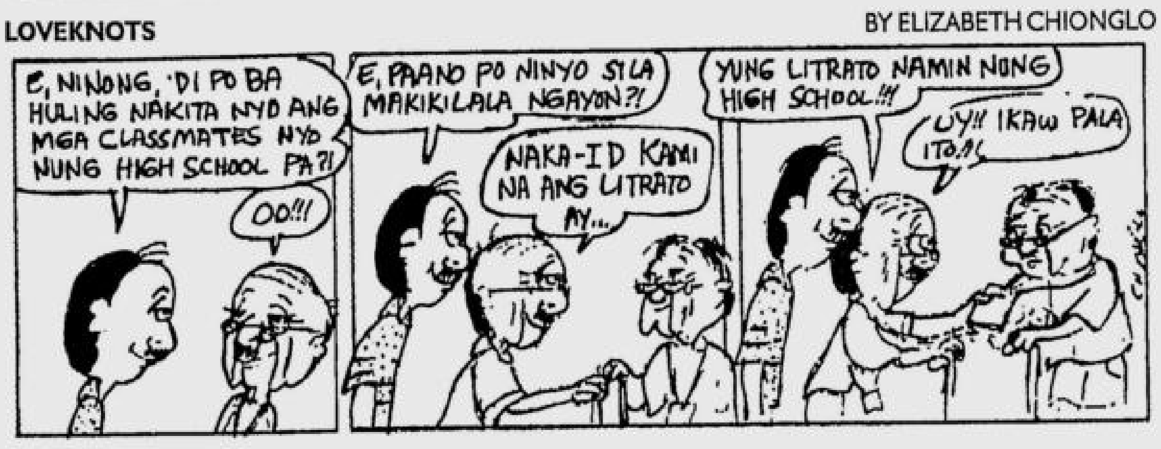
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


USONG-USO MAGPAPUTI NGAYON, NO? GRABE NA RIN TALAGA 'YANG COLONIAL MENTALITY...
O'NGA EH!
WHITE in Just Four W
GANDA-GANDA NAMAN NG NATURAL NA KULAY NATIN. DIBAT... BA'T KAYA HANGGANG...
KUYA! 'ETO NA YUNG PINABILI MONG LOTION NA PAMPA-PUTI, O!
HGK!
HA?! PATI IKAW?
uhh... HINDE, AH! PARA SA... ehem!... PARA SA ASO NAMIN 'TO! ASTIG 'NO?!
??? 'ALA NAMAN TAYONG ASO, MUF

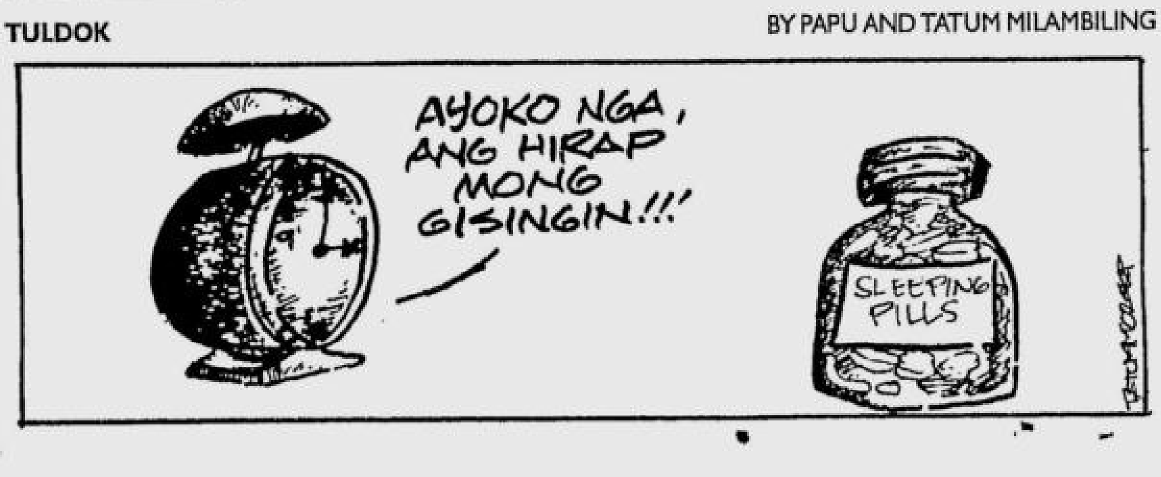
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


E, NINONG, 'DI PO BA HULING NAKITA NYO ANG MGA CLASSMATES NYO NUNG HIGH SCHOOL PA?!
OO!!!
E, PAANO PO NINYO SILA MAKIKILALA NGAYON?!
NAKA-ID KAMI NA ANG LITRATO AY...
YUNG LITRATO NAMIN NONG HIGH SCHOOL!!!
UY!! IKAW PALA ITO!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO NGA, ANG HIRAP MONG GISINGIN!!!
SLEEPING PILLS

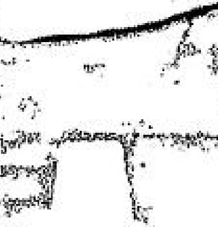
Look who's reading.
Bam Aquino
Commissioner, National Youth Commission/TV Host

Read to Lead
A Visine Reading Program

Thoughts on the joys of reading:

*"Anytime is the best time to read! Read upon waking...before bedtime.
Read while waiting for your ride. Read whenever, wherever!"*

"Read to Lead" is a special ***Visine*** program that promotes the value of reading and the joys and benefits it brings. It also hopes to encourage individuals to read regularly, to keep the mind inspired, stimulated and refreshed. After all, reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained, with benefits far greater than many present-day choices available to everyone.


TETRAHYDROZOLINE HCl
Visine Cool

Effectively 'kikay'

This talent may seem irrelevant but is a skill, an ally, a weapon we can use to survive the many pressures being a woman brings

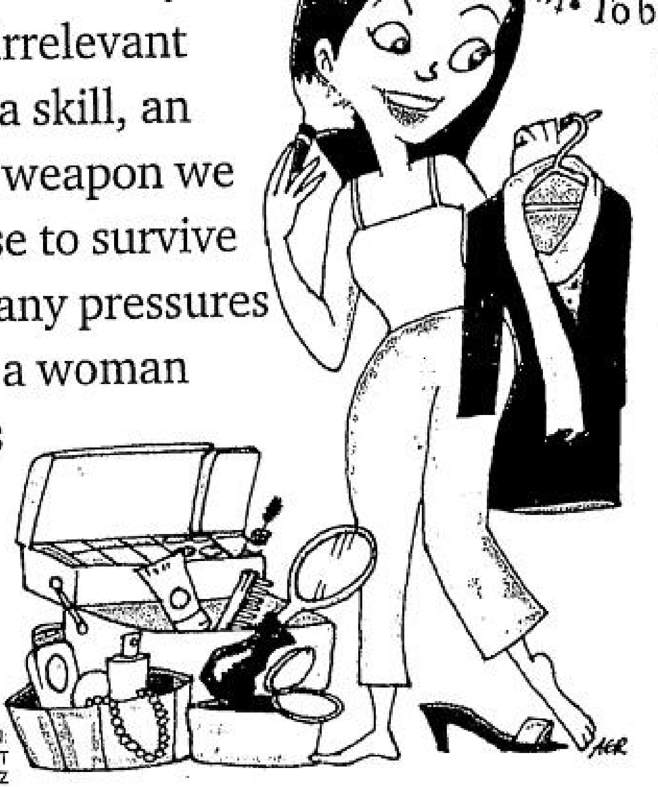


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Lora Gabol

I WAS "raised" by older male cousins to believe that *kikay* was the worst thing I could turn into so I spent a better part of my childhood sporting a little boy's cut, climbing trees and beating up boys. I absolutely abhorred having to wear frilly dresses and ribbons in my hair. That's probably why I was never part of the Rustan's Rainbow Riders Club.

I don't have memories of trying on my mom's high-heeled shoes or stealing her lipstick; I was too busy playing catch with my *kuyas*. Simply put, I was never the girly-girl with the braided pigtails, the little princess who never got her clothes dirty.

So what the heck am I doing, writing a column on, of all things, *kikay* stuff?

Sometime between the day I last made a boy cry and today, I have developed what my best friend calls an unconditional love for clothes, bags, lip gloss and everything nice. Yes, I am now certifiably *kikay*, and proud to be one.

Then again, what's wrong with being so? It's not like I spend my free time hanging out at the Beauty Bar or bonding with my hairdresser. Being *kikay* doesn't mean that my life's mission is to find the perfect pair of low-riders and the exact foundation shade for my skin tone. It is not ignoring the economic crunch and going broke just to have that shopping spree at Mango. It is not missing out on a life to keep my face wrinkle-free and my thighs from turning into orange peels. Being *kikay* is not having to be anything you don't want to be.

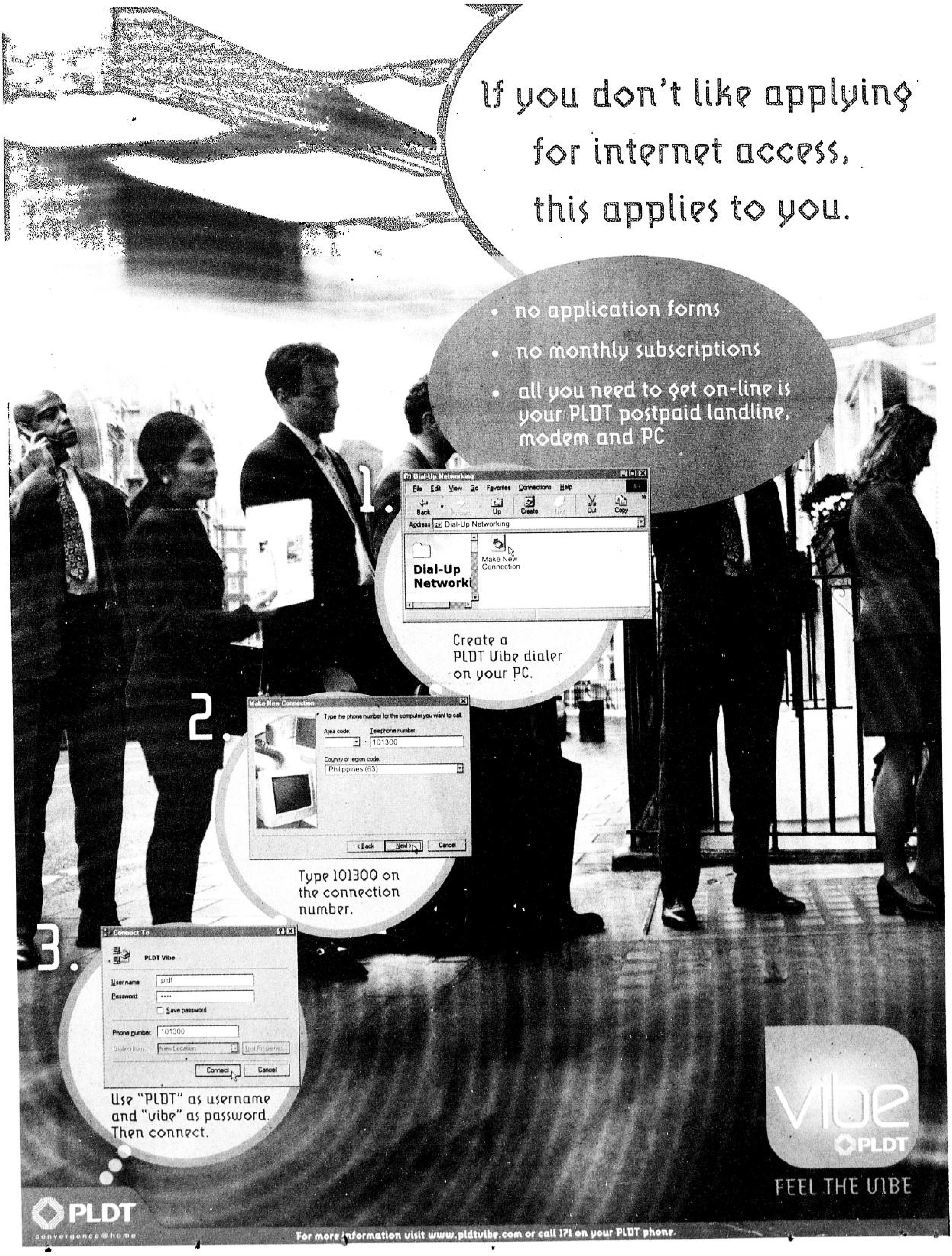
Have you ever bought an entire outfit with a make-up palette that matches... all in less than an hour? My guess is you haven't, at least not counting the time you thought you did, but got a top one size smaller and a mascara that runs. Hah! I can proudly declare that I have mastered this "art" and that it saves me time and energy, not to mention money!

The whole point of my sharing this seemingly irrelevant talent I have is that being *kikay* proves handy sometimes. Being "women of the new millennium" means juggling school, a career, a family, a social life, and God knows what else, while keeping ourselves looking presentable and decent. Looking good is a must these days —non-negotiable if you please— and it is not easy to look good. What can make it a little bit easier, however, is knowing how. Face it, we cannot afford to worry about what hairstyle suits our face shape best in the middle of hell week, or what jacket matches the skirt for that job interview.

Kikay is no longer just an adjective to describe how girls are. It has turned into a skill, an ally, a weapon we can use to get through the many pressures being a woman brings. It is no longer just about vanity. It's about being effectively *kikay*.

Part of knowing how to look good is knowing what you need and where to find them. This is where I come in. More than a love for all things *kikay*, I have also developed an unbelievable radar

EFFECTIVELY/ p.D4



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Address: Dial-Up Networking
Make New Connection

2. Type 101300 on the connection number.

Make New Connection
Type the phone number for the computer you want to call.
Area code:
Telephone number: 101300
Country or region code: Philippines (63)

3. Use "PLDT" as username and "vibe" as password. Then connect.

Connect To
PLDT Vibe
User name: pldt
Password: ····
☐ Save password
Phone number: 101300
Dialing from: New Location

PLDT convergence@home

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